

Speech on HR 796
Rep. Bernard Sanders
November 18, 1993

Mr. Speaker:

All over America, there are differences of opinion regarding the abortion issue. And in a democratic society, that is appropriate. Under our Constitution and Bill of Rights, citizens in this country, regardless of their opinions, have the right to express their point of view, and to fight for what they believe in.

But Mr. Speaker, it is not just protesters who have constitutional rights. If a woman in this country chooses to have an abortion, she also has rights - and those rights include the right to have that abortion without harassment, without violence, and without having to fight her way into a health clinic.

Today we say to the fanatics who are threatening the lives of physicians and other health care providers; "Enough is enough." Today we say to the arsonists who are burning down health clinics; "Enough is enough." Today we say to those who are preventing other Americans from exercising their constitutional rights; "Enough is enough."

Most importantly, today we say to the women of this country who have made the personal decision to have an abortion; "That is your right, and your free choice, and the United States government stands behind you in defending your right to exercise that choice without fear of violence."

Let us pass HR796.