



THE PRESIDENTIAL RECORD ON LIFE

President Barack Obama 2009-present

On January 22, 2011, the 38th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion on demand, President Obama issued an official statement heralding Roe as an affirmation of “reproductive freedom,” and pledging, “I am committed to protecting this constitutional right.”

- **Supreme Court:** President Obama appointed Elena Kagan (2010) and Sonia Sotomayor (2009) to the U.S. Supreme Court. As a key political aide to President Clinton, Kagan helped direct a political strategy preventing enactment of a ban on partial-birth abortions during the Clinton Administration. Sotomayor had previously helped direct the litigation projects of a private organization that filed multiple pro-abortion lawsuits, including challenges to parental notification requirements.
- **Health care law:** In 2009-2010, after the House of Representatives approved an amendment to prevent funding of abortion in a massive health-care bill, President Obama helped defeat the pro-life amendment in the Senate. He subsequently won enactment of a health care law (“ObamaCare”) that will result in federal funding of health plans that pay for elective abortion, and that will lead to large-scale rationing of lifesaving medical treatments.
- **Funding Abortion Providers:** President Obama indicated he would veto the entire federal spending bill -- forcing a government shutdown -- rather than accept a provision cutting funding to Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider. The Obama Administration later blocked efforts by several states to cut off government funds to Planned Parenthood.
- **Embryo-Destroying Research:** In March 2009, President Obama issued an executive order to allow federal funding of research that requires the killing of human embryos.
- **Abortion Funding:** In 2011, the Obama White House issued formal veto threats against the Protect Life Act, a bill that would repeal the abortion-expanding provisions of the 2010 ObamaCare law, and the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, a bill to permanently prohibit any federal program from funding elective abortions. President Obama also succeeded, for 16 months, in removing a ban on government-funded abortion on demand in the District of Columbia.
- **International Abortion Advocacy:** In 2009, President Obama issued an order to fund private organizations that perform and promote abortion overseas. His choice as Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, later told Congress that the Administration would advocate world-wide that “reproductive health includes access to abortion.”
- **Appointments:** President Obama appointed Kathleen Sebelius, a long-time opponent of curbs on abortion (including late abortions), as Secretary of Health and Human Services. President Obama has also appointed many other persons with histories as pro-abortion advocates to high government offices.
- **Conscience Protection:** In February 2011, the Obama Administration rescinded a regulation that had been issued by the Bush Administration, which would have protected health-care providers from being penalized for refusing to participate in providing abortions.