

# Minnesota Abortion Policy: *Most Extreme in the Nation!*



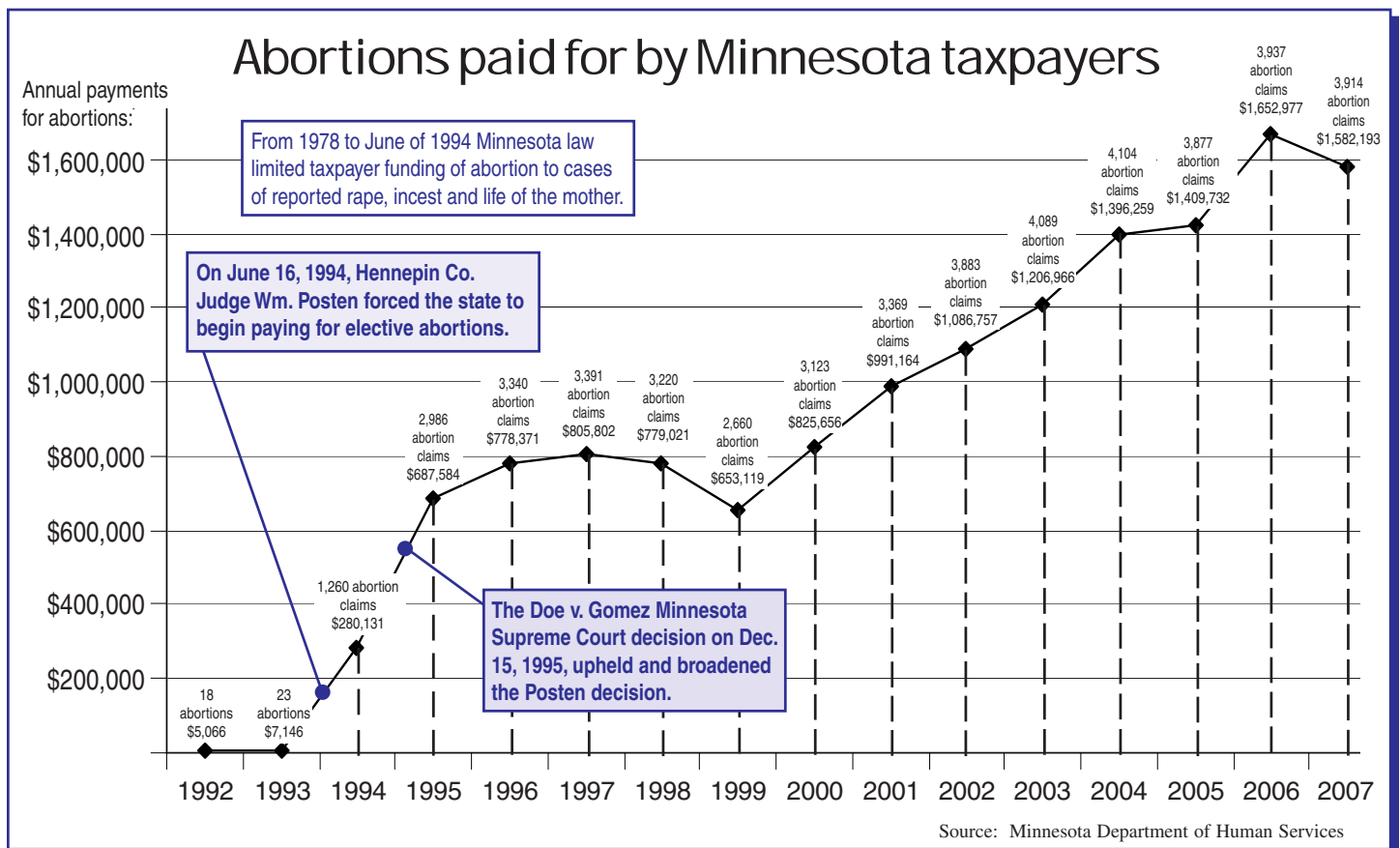
The U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision (1973) legalized abortion on demand.

The Minnesota Supreme Court's *Doe v. Gomez* decision (1995) is even more extreme.

## What the *Doe v. Gomez* decision does:

- Establishes a new state constitutional “right” to abortion. Such a right would remain protected by our state constitution even if *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 decision legalizing abortion in the United States, were to be overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Obligates the state—and thus, taxpayers—to pay for abortions, something not required by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Allows abortions for reasons such as “stress,” “discomfort” and “iron deficiency.”
- Forbids the state to “interfere” in any way with a woman’s “decision-making” about abortion.

**Even if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned at the national level, *Doe v. Gomez* declares that the Minnesota Constitution—as currently interpreted—would still allow abortion on demand for any reason.**



Note: During 1994–1998, 55 percent of tax-funded abortions were covered by managed-care plans (HMOs). The number of HMO abortion claims has been reported, but the costs of these abortions are not available. The dollar amounts shown for these years include estimates of HMO costs based on the average abortion costs paid under fee-for-service plans (traditional insurance). Starting in 1999, all tax-funded abortion costs are paid and reported under fee-for-service plans.

# We must amend the Minnesota Constitution

MCCL is working to pass a constitutional amendment ballot-initiative in Minnesota. We believe voters across the state should have an opportunity to vote on the amendment, which would read:

*“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that it may not be interpreted to relate to abortion in any way different from the United States Constitution?”*

Yes       No

Passage of this amendment, which has been introduced in each legislative session since the *Doe v. Gomez* ruling in 1995, would bring Minnesota’s Constitution in line with the U.S. Constitution, effectively overturning *Doe v. Gomez*. Under U.S. Supreme Court decisions, states have no obligation to fund abortions. Thus, the constitutionally accepted Hyde amendment, which prohibits most government funding of abortion in most circumstances, would apply in Minnesota. In addition, when the *Roe* decision is overturned, the “right” to abortion in Minnesota will no longer exist.

## Why not an amendment to prohibit abortion?

So long as *Roe v. Wade* is the law of the land, such a prohibition would not withstand a court challenge. Under *Roe*, states may regulate abortions, but they may not outlaw them. MCCL’s proposed amendment allows for any future rulings restricting abortion by the U.S. Supreme Court.

## Why not an amendment to just prohibit taxpayer-funding of abortion?

Simply targeting abortion funding with an amendment does not address the so-called “right to abortion” found in the Minnesota Supreme Court’s *Doe* decision.

## What can you do?

- Educate friends and neighbors.** Give them the facts about this extreme ruling.
- Inform the public.** Write letters to the editor on *Doe v. Gomez*. Explain its impact on unborn children and Minnesota taxpayers. Sample letters are available from MCCL.
- Question candidates for political office.** Ask them about their commitment to an MCCL-sponsored constitutional amendment to overturn this decision. Putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot depends upon electing *committed* pro-life legislators.
- Help build a pro-life community where you live, work and worship.** Encourage others to join MCCL and receive the *MCCL News*.

## Taxpayer funding of abortion tops \$14 million

A court decision on June 16, 1994, forced the state to begin paying for abortions; the state Supreme Court upheld and broadened that decision in *Doe v. Gomez* in December 1995.

**The following figures show taxpayer dollars paid to abortion providers from July 1994 through December 2007.**

Provider	# of Abortion Claims	Amount Paid
Abbott Northwestern Hospital	3	\$2,119.21
Diamond Women’s Center (Edina)	1	\$193.92
Fairview University Medical Center	—	\$1,534.01
Marilee A Hanson	1	\$441.41
Mildred Hanson	3,866	\$1,418,808.72
Mayo Clinic	32	\$14,447.09
Meadowbrook Women’s Clinic	12,789	\$3,322,732.27
Midwest Health Ctr. for Women	5,921	\$1,415,800.71
Mpls. Surgical Ctr. Anesth.	—	\$70.20
Nat’l Women’s Health Org. (Fargo)	311	\$65,048.07
Northland Ob-Gyn (Duluth)	1	\$378.21
Northwest Anesthesia PA	1	\$96.60
Ob/Gyn & Infertility PA (Edina)	1	\$193.12
Planned Parenthood (Highland)	5,303	\$1,327,745.61
Planned Parenthood (Sioux Falls)	46	\$10,808.00
Red River Women’s Clinic (Fargo)	1,096	\$248,904.51
Regions Clinic (Group Health)	2,930	\$652,227.81
Regions Hospital	821	\$2,381,858.92
Robbinsdale Clinic	4,135	\$930,393.84
Rochester Methodist Hospital	1	\$7,851.58
Univ. of Minnesota CRNA	—	\$172.13
Univ. of Minnesota Medical Center	2	\$1,319.89
Univ. of Minnesota Physicians	4	\$1,817.39
Univ. Women’s Health Physicians	2	\$720.00
Women’s Health Center (Duluth)	1,993	\$471,236.65
Women’s Health Consultants	1	\$187.50
*HMO-covered abortions (1994-1998)	7,854	\$1,849,581.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,115</b>	<b>\$14,126,689.03</b>

\*Note: During 1994–1998, 55 percent of tax-funded abortions were covered by managed-care plans (HMOs). Provider names and dollar amounts for the 7,854 managed-care covered abortions have not been made available. HMO costs have been estimated based on the average abortion costs paid under fee-for-service plans (traditional insurance).

Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services.

