

setting are extremely safe. In fact, it is the safest medical procedure of a surgical variety that women undergo. That is to say they are at less of a risk of losing their life from this surgical procedure than any other. Women rarely die from legal abortion, and only .5 percent, that is less than 1 percent, have major complications at all. This is a reduction from the days in which there were many, many deaths from illegal abortions. One of the related factors of making abortion legal is to move the abortion earlier in time. This increases the safety of the procedure. Although it is by and large a safe procedure, the risk of complication and death increase throughout the abortion as they do...as the risk of complications increase just physically for the woman under any regard in pregnancy. Before abortion was legalized, women often postponed having abortions beyond and frequently far beyond the first trimester. They had to search secretly for someone to perform it and to subject themselves to unlicensed practitioners, raise money, travel distances. It took time. It increased the risk of injury. It increased the risk of death. Legal abortion has altered that considerably and one of its net effects is to increase the number of individuals who, when having an abortion performed, have it done in the safest period of time, in the period, by the way, of the least fetal development. In 1973, Roe v. Wade, in that year, pregnancies were concluded in 8 weeks or less 38 percent of the time. Today that number is 50 percent, and those are the safest periods with the least complex fetal development...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...of all. From there on out, 9 to 10 weeks, the numbers have remained fairly steady although gone down somewhat; 11 and 12 case weeks, relatively similar, although about a 4 percent reduction; 13 to 15 weeks, another reduction; and from 16 to 20 weeks, again, another reduction. In other words, the entire bell curve of the abortion phenomena moved earlier into the pregnancy and earlier into the fetal development. Why is that critical? Because there are substantial risks that not only accompany childbirth but also abortion in the most advanced stages. Now recognizing that this only occurs in less than one-half of 1 percent of the time, they are, nonetheless, significant, heavy bleeding, severe cramping, infection...

PRESIDENT: Time.