

National Women's Law Center

Earlier this fall, the National Women's Law Center filed an *amicus* brief on behalf of 31 other organizations in two of the most highly anticipated cases of the Supreme Court's current term, *Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood* and *Gonzales v. Carhart*. Heard on November 8, 2006, these cases deal with the constitutionality of the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which covers abortion methods commonly used as early as 12 weeks and prohibits doctors from using them even when medically necessary to protect a woman's health. Significantly, these cases also mark the Court's first consideration of an abortion issue since Justice Alito succeeded Justice O'Connor. The Center's brief highlights the ways in which the abortion ban limits a woman's ability to secure the safest health care – the option that she may choose for personal, moral and religious reasons as well. The brief also describes the variety of serious adverse consequences to women's health, financial security, and future well-being that can result from the Act, which limit women's ability to participate fully and equally in society. For more details on the Center's brief, click [here](#). And, for an article articulating the significance of the newly constituted Court on the possible outcome of these cases, click [here](#).