

THE NEED FOR AN ABORTION LAW “TRANSITION PERIOD”

Proposal by Pat Kelly

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The Supreme Court decision which reversed *Roe v. Wade* threatens to drag America down into a pit that will be so bitterly divisive, disruptive, and destructive, that it can only be compared to the era which led to the Civil War. And the timing is absolutely terrible, since: (i) half the nation is trying to recover from an attempt to literally overthrow and destroy our constitutional government; (ii) the other half keeps clinging angrily to outright lies about the 2020 election; and, (iii) the opportunities we have, to try to get ready for the approaching onslaughts of global warming, out-of-control deficits and debts, a likely major recession, and more political unrest, are dwindling and dissipating, rapidly.

The following proposals are offered by Pat Kelly – an engineer, patent attorney, inventor, and candidate for US Senate (and, a skilled chess player, with a knack for seeing several moves ahead, when pitted against a skilled player) – as his effort to describe a strategy for how Democrats can and should respond to the Supreme Court decision. A more detailed and thorough statement (with additional options) can be downloaded from his campaign website, at www.kelly4senate.net/abortion-laws

1. Democrats in Congress should propose – and ask Republicans to tolerate – a “transition period”, to allow the nation to adapt to the new decision.

Rather than asking Republicans to adopt “the trimester system” (as set forth in *Roe v. Wade*) as federal law, **Democrats in Congress should ask the Republicans to tolerate, and allow, “a transition period”**, to give people time to adapt to the new set of laws. It was easy for even *pro-choice* female GOP Senators to come up with reasons for refusing to adopt *Roe v. Wade*. By contrast, it would be *much, MUCH* harder for them to refuse to allow some sort of logical, reasonable, appropriate transition, from *one* legal status, to a *very different* legal status. *Any* voter can understand the need for an appropriate transition, to allow people time to adjust their lives, in the face of an abrupt discontinuity. If Republicans refuse to allow even *that*, they will make themselves look abusive, uncompassionate, and driven solely by dogma. The moderates will recognize that, and can be persuaded to act accordingly.

2. The Requested Transition Could Propose That Every State Should Hold a Referendum on Abortion Rights, This Coming November, 2022

Skilled political operatives will need to create detailed proposals, for how they think “a transition period” should function. One proposal I hereby nominate, for their consideration, would provide a limited amount of federal money to help the states organize and conduct referendums, *this coming November*, which would allow *the voters of each state* to vote, directly, on simplified, yes-or-no, up-or-down choices, to either: (i) adopt “the trimester system” (as set forth in *Roe v. Wade*) for that state; or, (ii) ban abortions in that state (with two additional clauses also on those ballots, to let the voters say whether they want to allow exceptions for rape, and/or incest).

A *SECOND* proposal which I also nominate – for consideration by Democrats who will be negotiating with Republican Senators for support, to overcome the filibuster – would say that **EACH COUNTY** within any state – possibly on a mandatory nationwide basis; or, possibly to be decided by each state – would get to make its own *county-specific* decision, to either: (i) adopt the trimester system; or, (ii) ban abortions entirely, *within that county*. There are huge and critical differences between *URBAN* life, attitudes, and beliefs, versus *RURAL* life, attitudes and beliefs, and **politicians need to do more, to respect those differences**. In Missouri, the voters in St. Louis, and Kansas City, clearly would vote to keep the trimester system in place, *in those counties*, while most *RURAL* voters probably would ban abortion, *in their counties*. Jefferson City, Columbia, Springfield, etc.? Let *THEM* make *THEIR* choices, either way.

And, for complex reasons, *THAT* actually might be a good thing, for *ALL* of those places . . .