

## MEMORANDUM

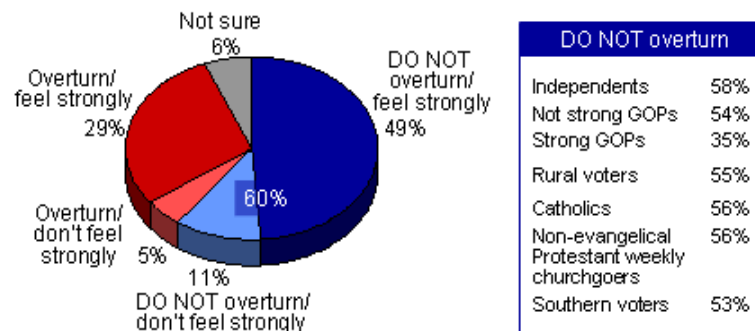
**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc.  
**DATE:** January 11, 2008  
**RE:** Application Of Research Findings

*On behalf of the National Women's Law Center and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., undertook a comprehensive research project lasting throughout most of 2007 focused on issues surrounding reproductive health and abortion. The quantitative portion of this research, the findings of which are reported here, comprised a large-scale national survey of 1,870 registered voters with oversamples of African-American and Hispanic voters.*

**As the nation approaches the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, a strong majority of voters support the Court's ruling.** In fact, fully three in five (60%) American voters say that they want to see the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision upheld, with half (49%) of voters affirming that they feel strongly about upholding the ruling. Comparatively, just one in three (34%) voters wants to see *Roe* overturned.

### Widespread Support For Roe

*The Supreme Court's 1973 Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion and limited the circumstances under which government could restrict this right. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its Roe versus Wade decision?*



Importantly, in this survey, voters were told that the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision established a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion and limited the circumstances under which government could restrict this right, so this measurement reflects an informed view of *Roe v.*

## Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc.

*Wade*. Thirty-five years after the Supreme Court's initial ruling, *Roe* finds backing not just in traditional key supporter constituencies, such as Democrats (74% uphold) and college-educated women (70% uphold), but also among a majority of voters across a broad range of constituencies, including the following groups:

- 58% of independents
- 54% of soft Republicans
- 53% of Southern voters; 57% of Midwestern voters
- 55% of rural voters; 56% of small town voters
- 50% of "red state" voters
- 56% of non-evangelical Protestants who are weekly churchgoers
- 56% of Catholics
- 56% of seniors

Overall, the survey results paint a clear picture for policymakers and political leaders: a broad base of voters want *Roe v. Wade* upheld, a sentiment that establishes support for *Roe* as a mainstream position in America.

**At the 35th anniversary of *Roe*, not only do a majority of voters want to uphold the Court's decision; they also want to see a change in this country's approach to reproductive health issues. Driving this frustration is a strong desire for a greater emphasis on prevention.**

In fact, voters overwhelmingly describe themselves as dissatisfied with the country's approach to reproductive health issues; by 58% to 24% they say that the country is headed off on the wrong track rather than in the right direction on issues such as sex education, contraception, unintended pregnancy, and abortion.

**As part of this desire for change and emphasis on prevention, voters strongly endorse an agenda for government and policymakers that centers around the need for better sex education and the support of a variety of different legislative efforts to expand access to contraception.**

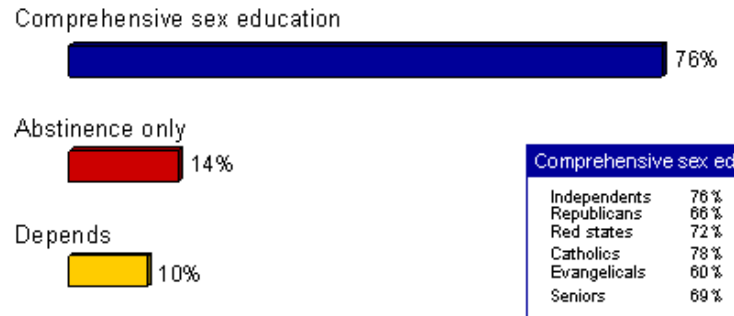
A majority of voters in nearly every demographic category, including Democrats, Republicans, and independents, as well as "red state" voters, Catholics, and evangelical Christians, support comprehensive sex education<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> "Comprehensive sex education" is defined as "information that is age-appropriate, medically accurate, and includes information about abstinence as well as information about the risks and benefits of contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS."

## Comprehensive Sex Education In Public Schools

Preference for What U.S. Public Schools Should Teach



In addition to sponsoring comprehensive sex education in schools, voters overwhelmingly support measures aimed at “protecting the right of individuals to get contraception without government interference or intrusion” (75% strongly favor), “making it easier for women at all income levels to obtain contraceptives” (73% strongly favor), and “requiring insurance plans to cover contraception if the plan also covers prenatal care for pregnant women” (61% strongly favor).

## Support For Legislation That Would Make It Easier For Women At All Income Levels To Obtain Contraceptives

