

[MUSIC IN]

DO YOU SUPPORT THE PRO-LIFE CAUSE OR THE PRO-CHOICE CAUSE?

I SUPPORT THE PRO-CHOICE CAUSE

PRO LIFE

PRO CHOICE

PRO CHOICE

I'M KIND OF INBETWEEN

ABORTION TO ME, I THINK IT COMES DOWN TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU VIEW THAT AS A HUMAN LIFE, A POTENTIAL HUMAN LIFE, OR NOT A HUMAN LIFE AT ALL.

IF A WOMAN HAS A CHILD AND SHE'S NOT ABLE TO SUPPORT IT AND SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE IT A PROPER LIFE AND UPBRINGING, THEN SHE SHOULDN'T BE FORCED TO HAVE ONE. IT'S UNFAIR TO THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD.

I BELIEVE WOMEN SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT AND A SAY ON THEIR FUTURE AND WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEIR BODIES.

EVERY LIFE IS IMPORTANT, NO MATTER HOW IT TURNS OUT.

I THINK IT KIND OF DEPENDS ON THE SCENARIO AND WHAT'S GOING ON I GUESS.

YOU'RE LISTENING TO SOCIALLY AWKWARD. THIS WEEK'S EPISODE IS ABOUT ABORTION.

[MUSIC OUT]

[AMBIENCE IN]

SASHA: IT'S TERMINATING A PREGNANCY, THAT'S WHAT IT IS. I THINK EVEN THOSE WHO ADVOCATE FOR THE RIGHT TO ABORTION LIKE THE PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENT, THERE'S LITERALLY NO OTHER WAY TO GO ABOUT IT. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO SAY THAT.

MADDIE: THIS IS SASHA MATSUKI. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, SHE HAS BEEN THE LEADER OF THE PRO-CHOICE CLUB, DIRECTING DISCUSSION AROUND THE LOGISTICS OF ABORTION.

SASHA: MOST OF THE TIME IT'S A PILL THAT CAUSES A TYPE OF, I GUESS HEMORRHAGING IS A STRONG WORD, BUT THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT HAPPENS AND IT CAUSES HER TO MISCARRY. THE ABORTIONS THAT YOU SEE A LOT OF PHOTOS OF WHERE IT'S LIKE, A FETUS BEING CLAMPED BY A PAIR OF PINCERS AND THEN BEING PULLED OUT, THOSE ARE THIRD-TERM ABORTIONS WHICH ARE RARELY EVER PERFORMED, ONLY IF THE BABY HAS ALREADY DIED IN THE WOMB BUT IS NOT ABLE TO BE MISCARRIED DUE TO THE SIZE OR IF THE MOTHER'S LIFE IS ENDANGERED. THOSE ARE HARDLY EVER PERFORMED. I THINK THOSE ARE ONLY EVER PERFORMED, FROM MY KNOWLEDGE, IN HOSPITALS, OR THERE'S ONE DOCTOR WHO DOES THEM AND I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF HE'S STILL ALIVE. ABORTION IS UNLIKE OTHER MEDICAL PROCEDURES, IT'S VERY EMOTIONALLY TAXING, NOBODY JUST GOES OUT AND GETS AN ABORTION LIKE YOU BUT A JAR OF PICKLES OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT'S VERY EMOTIONALLY TAXING AND THERE'S A LOT OF THOUGHT THAT GOES INTO IT.

MADDIE: SO WHAT ROLE DOES LEGISLATION PLAY IN THIS THOUGHT PROCESS?
ACCORDING TO SASHA, SUPREME COURT DECISIONS LIKE PLANNED PARENTHOOD V. CASEY AND ROE V. WADE HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON WOMEN'S ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTIONS.

SASHA: ROE V. WADE WAS THE FIRST SUPREME COURT CASE THAT BASICALLY ALLOWED A WOMAN TO GET AN ABORTION THE CURRENT CASE THAT STANDS ITS PRECEDENT IS PLANNED PARENTHOOD V CASEY, AND THAT IS THE SUPREME COURT RULED YOU CANNOT UNDULY BURDEN A WOMAN IF SHE WOULD LIKE TO GET AN ABORTION. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO MAKE HER WAIT, OR THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE HER GET HER HUSBAND'S CONSENT, OR A MALE PARTNER'S CONSENT, AND THINGS LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW, I THINK THEY'VE PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN BOTH ALLOWING WOMEN TO GET ABORTIONS, AND PREVENTING PEOPLE WHO GET PREGNANT FROM GETTING ABORTIONS. THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN PLANNED PARENTHOOD V. CASEY TO ALLOW THE STATES TO CURB WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN GETTING ABORTIONS BY MAKING THEM WAIT, I THINK THAT'S ALLOWED FOR A LOT OF LOOPHOLES IN STATES WHERE THEY WANT TO MAKE WOMEN WAIT FOR 72 HOURS. FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT ISN'T FEASIBLE BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO STAY IN THE AREA WHERE THERE IS ONE ABORTION CLINIC THAT MAY BE HALF A STATE AWAY OR IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STATE. I THINK AS MUCH AS IT HAS ALLOWED, I THINK IT HAS ALSO CURBED THAT RIGHT.

[MUSIC IN]

SASHA: IT'S REALLY JUST THE PRINCIPLE OF WHAT AN ABORTION IS. NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, LIKE I'M PRO-CHOICE, BUT I STILL RECOGNIZE THAT THERE WAS A POTENTIAL FOR A HUMAN LIFE. I THINK HOW YOU GO FROM THAT CONCEPT IS REALLY WHERE THE PRO-CHOICE AND PRO-LIFE MOVEMENTS DIVERGE. THERE HAS TO BE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING THAT WOMEN ARE PEOPLE, AND THEIR BODIES SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.

MADDIE: ACKNOWLEDGING HOW THE PRO-LIFE AND PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENTS DIFFER IS KEY TO FULLY GRASPING THE EXTENT OF THE ABORTION DEBATE. IN AN EFFORT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THIS DIVISION I INTERVIEWED SENIOR SOPHIA TRAGESSER, LEADER OF THE PRO-LIFE CLUB.

[MUSIC OUT]

SOPHIA: I DEFINE ABORTION AS ANY UNNATURAL TERMINATION, UNNATURAL INTENTIONAL TERMINATION OF A PREGNANCY. SO, THERE'S KIND OF A CERTAIN LINE, WHETHER SOMEONE FALLS AND THEIR UNBORN CHILD IS KILLED, THAT'S STILL AN ABORTION, BUT IT'S DIFFERENT LEGALLY DEFINED IN MY MIND. INTENDED VERSUS UNINTENDED, I THINK IT DOES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE. I'VE BEEN VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT LIFE ISSUES IN GENERAL, SO WHETHER IT'S ABORTION, OR PROTECTING LOWER INCOME FAMILIES, HELPING IMPOVERISHED, HELPING THE ELDERLY, ANTI-EUTHANASIA, SO I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT, PRETTY MUCH SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL. IT'S BEEN A BIG PART OF MY LIFE, AND IT'S AN ISSUE I REALLY THINK HAD TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES, ESPECIALLY IN THE MODERN WORLD.

MADDIE: ACCORDING TO SOPHIA, MANY WOMEN DECIDE TO GET ABORTIONS DUE TO A FEAR OF WHAT OTHERS WILL THINK.

SOPHIA: I THINK ONE OF THE BIGGEST, WOULD BE FEAR. A LOT OF IT IS FEAR OF WHAT THE BOYFRIEND OR THE PARTNER WILL THINK, FEAR OF WHAT THE PARENTS WOULD THINK, IS THE BIGGEST FACTOR IN YOUTH GETTING ABORTIONS. FEAR OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CARE FOR THE CHILD, I THINK THOSE ARE ALL THINGS THAT SEEM REALLY REAL AND ONE'S PARENTS COULD BE VERY AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS A TEEN PREGNANCY. AND THAT FEAR, COERCES THE WOMAN TO GET AN ABORTION. I DON'T THINK ANY WOMAN EVER WANTS TO GET ONE. I THINK IT'S COERCION FROM SOCIETY, THAT'S A BIG PROBLEM TOO, IS SOCIETY SAYING ONE, YOU CAN'T DO THIS. SOCIETY TELLING GIRLS, YOU CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL AND BE PREGNANT, YOU'LL DROP OUT. THAT'S NOT TRUE. THERE'S TONS OF COLLEGES WITH GREAT RESOURCES FOR, PREGNANT ON CAMPUS, TO HELP WOMEN DO BOTH BECAUSE WOMEN ARE STRONG, INDEPENDENT, CAPABLE HUMAN BEINGS. THERE'S LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP.

MADDIE: SO HOW WOULD OUTLAWING ABORTION BENEFIT BOTH THE LIVES OF THE MOTHER AND BABY?

SOPHIA: I THINK THE BIGGEST EFFECTS, IF ABORTION IS OUTLAWED, IS PROTECTING CHILDREN. A BIG PROBLEM WITH ABORTION CURRENTLY IS, IF YOU JUST LOOK AT IT STATISTICALLY, THE DISPROPORTION OF PEOPLE BEING ABORTED. ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS IS SEX-SELECTIVE, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY, AND IN GENERAL IT'S WOMEN, PEOPLE KILL THE BABY JUST

BECAUSE IT'S A GIRL. THIS CAN BE SEEN REALLY BIG IN CHINA DURING THE DENG XIAOPING ONE CHILD POLICY YEARS. SO THAT WAS A HUGE PROBLEM THERE, AND NOW THERE'S A LOT OF CONSEQUENCES WITH GENDER IMBALANCE, AND THAT'S INCREASING PROSTITUTION AND SEX SLAVERY IN THE REGION BECAUSE OF THE SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTIONS. ALSO, I THINK IF WE OUTLAW ABORTIONS WE'LL SEE LESS DISCRIMINATION. IN GENERAL, I BELIEVE ROUGHLY 34 PERCENT OF ABORTIONS ARE DONE ON A DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNT OF MINORITIES. SO MORE AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HISPANICS ARE BEING ABORTED THAN WHITES. THIS ACTUALLY, IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THE FOUNDING DOCUMENTS FROM MARGARET SINGER, THIS WAS THE INTENTION OF CERTAIN BIRTH CONTROL AND ABORTIONS. THEY WERE INTENDED AS A EUGENICS MOVEMENT TO REMOVE AND DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE GAINS OF RECOGNIZING, OFFICIALLY LEGALLY RECOGNIZING UNBORN CHILDREN AS HUMANS IS ASTRONOMICAL. JUST AS IT WAS WHEN WE DID THAT WITH THE THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH, AND FIFTEENTH AMENDMENTS IN THE EIGHTEEN HUNDREDS BY RECOGNIZING AFRICAN AMERICANS AS REAL PEOPLE, HUMAN, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

[MUSIC IN]

SASHA: A YOUNG WOMAN IN HER TEENS, SHE'S NOT READY TO BE A MOTHER, SHE'S BEING SHAMED FOR EITHER ENGAGING IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY FOR SOMETHING THAT PROBABLY WASN'T HER FAULT, OR WAS JUST A BAD DECISION. THEN THERE'S ECONOMIC FACTORS. A LOT OF PEOPLE WANT TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION, THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT WHEN YOU HAVE A

CHILD, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE A SINGLE PARENT. I THINK THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE PERSONALLY PRO-LIFE BUT BELIEVE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE. I THINK THAT IN TERMS OF POLITICAL RIGHTS, THEY FEEL THAT THEIR OWN LIVES WOULD BE INHIBITED BY HAVING A CHILD SO YOUNG.

MADDIE: THAT'S IT FOR THIS EPISODE OF SOCIALLY AWKWARD. IF YOU REALLY LIKE THE MUSIC IN THIS PODCAST. IF YOU REALLY LIKE THE MUSIC IN THIS PODCAST, ALL OF IT IS FOUND ON FREEMUSICARCHIVE.COM. FROM 91.3, W-H-J-E, I'M MADDIE HARDEN.