

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Indiana Considers Abortion Ban; Protesters Rally Against Bill That Would Ban Nearly All Abortions]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Now to the latest battleground in the fight over abortion rights. This was the scene in Indiana's state House as lawmakers there considered a near total ban. *CBS Evening News* anchor and managing editor Norah O'Donnell sat down with someone who's become a symbol of this debate, that's Dr. Caitlin Bernard who's an ob-gyn in Indiana who, according to state records obtained by CBS News, provided a medication abortion to a 10-year-old rape victim from neighboring Ohio. That state already bans most abortions after six weeks. Because of privacy laws, Dr. Bernard can't confirm this was her patient. But, in her first interview, she spoke about what the end of *Roe v. Wade* means for doctors.

BERNARD: I think we're at a time in our country where people are starting to realize the impact of these antiabortion laws, and now when it's finally become impossible for some people, I think people realize that that is actually not what they intended, that is not what they want for children, for women, to be put in these situations of life-threatening conditions, of traumatic pregnancies.

O'DONNELL: When your name was publicly attached to this case, the attorney general of Indiana said he would investigate you. What was your reaction?

BERNARD: It's been really difficult.

O'DONNELL: Indiana's attorney general Todd Rokita described you as an abortion activist acting as a doctor. How do you respond to that?

BERNARD: I'm a physician. I spent my entire life working to have this position, to be able to take care of patients every single day.

O'DONNELL: Did you at any point violate privacy laws?

BERNARD: No.

O'DONNELL: And have you failed to report any recent abortions?

BERNARD: Nope.

O'DONNELL: How would you describe how things have changed since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*?

BERNARD: We are hearing stories of people in dire circumstances, complications of their

pregnancies or traumatic situations and are needing abortion care and not able to get it.

O'DONNELL: Is it worse than you imagined?

BERNARD: It's worse faster.

O'DONNELL: You've spent your life, your career, taking care of — and providing care for women and babies. What has this Supreme Court decision done?

BERNARD: You know, this will affect our ability to take care of miscarriages. This will affect our ability to take care of complications in early pregnancy that could kill someone. This will affect our ability to provide infertility treatments, contraception. The list goes on.

O'DONNELL: How would you address concerns by conservatives or those with deeply held religious beliefs that abortion is immoral and wrong?

BERNARD: What I would say is if you don't believe that you would have an abortion, then don't have one. You cannot stop other people from accessing medical care that they need based on your personal religious beliefs. You would never want somebody to do that to you.

DUTHIERS: Dr. Bernard told us the Indiana attorney general has only just reached out to her and her lawyer for the first time nearly two weeks after saying he would investigate her. Dr. Bernard is also pursuing a defamation case against him and I think the point that she makes at the end there —

GAYLE KING: Is very powerful.

DUTHIERS: — is key. It's critical because —

KING: Believe it's wrong and it — it's against what you believe, then don't have one.

NATE BURLESON: Don't have one.

KING: The simplicity in which she said it makes you go, oh, okay.

DUTHIERS: Right.

BURLESON: Puts it in perspective.

KING: I thought so.

DUTHIERS: Yeah, I agree.