

NBC's *Saturday Today*
01/21/23
7:00:57 a.m. [TEASE]
17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Battle Cry]

KRISTEN WELKER: Battle cry.

MARCH FOR LIFE MARCHERS: Pro-life generation!

WELKER: On this 50th anniversary weekend of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that was overturned last year, tens of thousands take to the streets of the nation's capital as part of the March for Life rally. Where does the abortion fight go from here?

(...)

7:05:30 a.m.
2 minutes and 49 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: "March for Life" Returns to DC Post-Roe]

JOE FRYER: This weekend marks the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision on *Roe v. Wade* and a half century later, the debate over abortion rights still looms large especially after the Dobbs decision overturning *Roe*. On Friday, the March for Life took place, just one of several marches this weekend on both sides of the issue. NBC's Marissa Parra was at the march and joins us with more. Marissa, good morning to you.

WELKER: Good morning.

MARISSA PARRA: Joe and Kristen, good morning to you. Another busy day in D.C., as usual, right?

WELKER: Mmhmm. Yeah.

PARRA: Well, crowds for the march in the tens of thousands and we know that the march was originally started to protest *Roe v. Wade*, so there was a big celebratory mood in this new post-*Roe* era, right? This is what they've been fighting for, but activists on both sides of the abortion debate are really galvanized in differ ways, especially as we get closer to 2024.

MARCH FOR LIFE MARCHERS: We are the pro-life generation!

PARRA: This morning, the battle over abortion access, far from over. Roughly seven months after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, the nation's capital seeing the nation's first March for Life in a post-*Roe* world.

CONGRESSMAN CHRIS SMITH (R-NJ): And today, we celebrate, *Roe* is gone! [CHEERS]

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER STEVE SCALISE (R-LA): It's important to keep your focus on what the mission is, but every step of the way, it's also critical that we celebrate victories along the way.

PARRA: Changing their route to reflect a changed country, stopping in front of both the Supreme Court and the Capitol, a symbolic nod to the role they both have and continue to play in abortion.

MARCH FOR LIFE ATTENDEE: It's up to the states now, so we need to raise awareness in each of the states.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Demonstrations on 50th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*]

PARRA: Counter-protesters readying their own fight to win back lost ground.

PRO-ABORTION ACTIVIST: That is why I'm here. It is to show we will not let America be bullied out of the right to abortion.

PARRA The path to a full nationwide victory for either side an uphill battle. It's been 50 years since *Roe v. Wade* was first signed into law, but in the months since its reversal last summer almost two dozen states have either banned abortion or they're close to it with several legislative sessions actively debating what their laws will be on a state level. This as federal action fails to move forward. Senator Lindsey Graham's federal abortion ban proposal failed last fall and the Biden administration's hope of a federal right to choose —

KARINE JEAN-PIERRE: We need to codify *Roe*.

PARRA: — unlikely in a Republican-controlled House. And with new FDA guidance making more abortion pills accessible over the counter, a new battleground is headed to the pharmacy. Now, that new FDA guidance was a small victory for abortion rights activists and we know tomorrow is the 50th anniversary of an original decision. So, there are Bigger than *Roe* pro-choice marches scheduled across the country. Joe and Kristen?

FRYER: Alright, Kristen — I mean, Marissa Parra. Thank you. Appreciate it.

WELKER: Great to see you, Marissa.. Really appreciate it.