

# Local abortion-rights groups plan protest

By CHELA ZABIN  
STAFF WRITER

Liz Taylor-Selling, the chairwoman of Santa Cruz County NOW's reproductive rights task force, had given up on getting to work on time this morning.

She was busy scrambling to get things set for today's 5 p.m. protest at the County Governmental Center against this morning's Supreme Court decision.

"This is a direct assault on teen women and on the rights of teen women," she said. "It's a real backhanded way of getting at women in general."

In what is viewed as a fur-

ther erosion of the abortion rights guaranteed by the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, the court this morning upheld an Ohio law that requires minors to notify at least one of their parents before having an abortion. The court struck down portions of a more restrictive Minnesota law that required that both parents be informed, but held that such a law would be constitutional if there was a judicial bypass process in place. It also upheld the law's 48-hour waiting period.

Marjaneh Amirshahi, director of community affairs for Santa Cruz County Planned

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Parenthood, said she was concerned about the message the court's decision might send to the State Supreme Court, which will be reviewing California's 1987 parental consent law. The law, which requires consent, not just notification, is more restrictive than either the Ohio or Minnesota law. It is not now being enforced, pending the court's decision.

Taylor-Selling said that the outcome of the Supreme Court decision might not be felt in California for a while. But she said she's worried about the decision in conjunction with the passage of Proposition 115 earlier this month, which eroded privacy rights in some criminal cases. The right to privacy is the legal basis for many abortion rights laws.

"When I see the mix, it worries me," she said.

In the states that have parental notification laws, Amirshahi said she expects "an increase in the number of teen women who try to self-abort, or delay abortion trying to cross state lines, or who will carry an unwanted pregnancy to term,

all of which are more dangerous than getting a legal abortion."

About one-quarter of the 1 million abortions performed in the United States in a year are for minors, she said.

She also said that teenagers who used the judicial bypass to get around telling their parents are not guaranteed confidentiality, which could be a further deterrent to using legal means to end a pregnancy.

Taylor-Selling said one outcome of restricting abortions to teenagers is an increase in teenage suicide. Studies have shown that unwanted pregnancies are a major contributing factor to suicides among teenage girls.

The court decision doesn't promote good communication between family members, she said.

"If kids can't go to their parents, then they've already lost the connection, and the court can't put that connection back," she said.

Representatives of anti-abortion groups, including the Christian Action Council and the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Santa Cruz, could not be reached for comment this morning.