

The ethical issue in nursing I chose to write about is abortion. I feel like this issue has been a debate for years now, not just in nursing, but for everyone in the United States. It is hard for nurses to put their feelings aside for something such as abortion. To some, it feels as though they are going against their morals and beliefs because, as nurses, we are trained to save lives, not take them. Some may say it goes against the ethical principle of nonmaleficence, which means we do no harm. It is important for nurses to really challenge their belief system because it is our job to make our patients safe and comfortable in our care. If a nurse believes they cannot put their beliefs aside to care for a patient who wants an abortion, then they will have to move to a different field of nursing where abortions will not be integrated. There is another important ethical principle that I believe plays a huge part in abortion for women. This principle is autonomy. We have our own rights as humans, and for many that means it is well within their rights to ask for an abortion. That is completely the patient's choice and we as nurses do not have the right to persuade them otherwise. We can give them facts and possible outcomes, but we cannot press our judgement upon them. Nursing world states, "Nurses have an ethical obligation to safeguard the right to privacy for individuals, families, and communities, allowing for decision making that is based on full information without coercion" (McClendon & Levine, 2022).

McClendon, S., & Levine, Z. (2022, June 24). *US Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade: Is a serious setback for reproductive health and human rights*. ANA.  
<https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2022-news-releases/us-supreme-courts-decision-to-overturn-roe-vs.-wade---is-a-serious-setback-for-reproductive-health-and-human-rights>