

We are the Pro-Life Generation

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Abstract

It is not a war on women as it is a war on babies. We need to have people responsible for their actions and know what comes along with having sex. As a society we have become a throw away society. When we do not like something we just get rid of it, Or if we did something wrong we do not take responsibility for our actions. It is more than just killing the unwanted. It is an attitude of a society we live in that needs to change. We need to change to uphold the dignity of every human created.

We are the Pro-Life Generation

Before the 1973 Supreme Court decision of Roe V. Wade, Americans were split on the decision of life. The two sides of the decision are Pro-life and Pro-Choice. Each continues to fight to what they believe is right for our nation. Pro-life supporters believe life begins at conception, but pro-choicers believe life begins when a child enters into the world. Pro-lifers believe life is a life no matter what. Pro-choicers believe that the mom gets to choose if she has an abortion, so she can continue to live her life as if nothing had happened. The states have the power to make their own abortion laws. Each time they make them stricter or loosen them, the people come out to protest each new law. Being the voice for the voiceless, Roe v. Wade should be overturned, because of the health and psychological problems abortion can cause. Life is precious and should be saved no matter what. We should not be saying that we can just take a pill or have a procedure done to take care of an unplanned and unwanted child.

Prior to the 1973 Supreme Court Case, abortion laws were left to the states, where only a few had it legal to have an abortion. Some states had legalized abortion but for only certain circumstances, including rape, incest, and where the health of the mother was in danger (State, 2014, para. 16). Texas was one of the states to have abortion illegal, when Norma McCorvey, 21 in 1969, was a single mother and became pregnant with her second child. She did not have the money to travel to one of the states that had legalized abortion (Bodenner, 2007, para. 31). She then found lawyers Linda Coffee and Sarah Weddington to help challenge the Texas Law (para. 32). McCorvey took the name Jane Roe in the case for her own privacy. She filed the suit against Dallas County district attorney Henry Wade (para. 32). With a 7-2 decision, the court

“established most abortions in early stages of pregnancy as protected under the Constitution,” it “allowed certain restrictions to be placed on late-term abortion” (Abortion, 2012, para. 5):

The court found that a woman had a “fundamental right” to an abortion based on the right to privacy, grounded in both the Ninth and 14th Amendments...The court said that right was not absolute; the state did have a compelling interest to protect the health of pregnant women and the well-being of a fetus as it approached full term. (Bodenner, 2007, para. 46)

On the same day of the Roe v. Wade decision, the court ruled on the case Doe v. Bolton, "a Georgia law requiring a woman to get approval from three physicians before having an abortion," (Wanlund, 2014, p. 275). The law also only “permitted abortion only in cases when the woman's life or health was in danger” (State, 2014, para 17).

Within the abortion debate, there is also debate on types of abortions and who should cover the cost of abortion and/or emergency contraception pill. One type of abortion that has had back and forth controversies is intact dilation and extraction (IDE), also known as “partial birth” abortion (Abortion, 2012, para.6). In 2003, President Bush signed into law the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. It “banned IDE except in cases where the life of the women was in danger” (para. 18). Pro-Choice groups took up the ban and it was challenged in the Supreme Court in 2007. The court upheld the case in Gonzales v. Carhart. It was the first time the court had ever backed a ban on a specific type of abortion procedure (para.19). Another argument is the drug “mifepristone, (formerly known as RU-486) that can terminate a pregnancy”, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2000 (para. 20). Now we are able to get the drug “by prescription only, under the brand name Mifeprex” (para.20). In 2011, Plan B One-Step was

made available over the counter for anyone over the age of 17 to purchase. It is a “concentrated amount of the chemicals found in birth control pills to prevent pregnancy up to 72 hours after sex” (para. 22).

Supporters of abortion take the stand that having access to abortion has improved the lives of women (Abortion, 2012, para. 34). When a woman becomes pregnant at a young age, she is then forced to raise her child and most of the time, without the support of the father. With the legalization of abortions, they have become safer for women to obtain, instead of going to illegal, back alley places to have them done, and then most of them being unsafe for the woman (para 34). Pro-Choicers believe that with the stricter regulations in recent years have limited a woman's freedom to choose. “Most abortion rights supporters reject parental-involvement laws. They argue that requiring the notification or consent of parents has the effect of restricting young women’s access to abortion” (para 38). With more restrictions, they hurt the “poor and rural women,” without realizing it, because they are less likely to be able to travel to where the abortion is more accessible (State, 2014, para. 42).

An argument used in the court cases in 1973 was that “the Constitution did not protect the life of a fetus because a fetus was not yet a person” (Bodenner, 2007, para. 54). As Sarah Weddington put it, “The Constitution.. gives protection to people after birth” (as cited in Bodenner, 2007, para. 54). They believe that “restrictions on abortion do not actually protect women’s health and safety but only limit a woman's right to control her body and jeopardizing her privacy (State, 2014, para. 9). A major point is that they believe that it infringes on a woman’s privacy and that government officials should not be regulating what a woman can and can not do to her body.

With more conservatives in Congress, new laws limiting and restricting women are being passed. Pro-Choice supporters believe that they are just limiting safe abortions. If the safe abortions are made illegal, would the rate of the mother's mortality from the abortions rise? Women would have go back to back alley abortion doctors. The doctors could then get in trouble for it. They want abortions to be safe and accessible for all, just like it was made legal from the Roe decision, but the new restrictions from the government are making it hard for safe abortions to happen, hence, going against that decision.

With the choice to kill their own child, women often have both psychological and physical health problems after having an abortion. This includes attempted suicide, depression, alcohol and drug abuse. Gissler, Hemminki & Lonqvist found that women who have had an abortion, have a 6 times higher suicide rate than women who delivered (as cited in Psychological Risks, 2007, para. 1). The rate is even higher for post-abortion teenagers. According to Cogle, Reardon & Coleman, there is a great risk for serious depression "longitudinal study of American women revealed that those who aborted were 65% more likely to be at risk of long-term clinical depression after controlling for age, race, education, marital status, history of divorce, income, and prior psychiatric state" (as cited in Psychological Risk, 2007, para. 5).

There have been multiple studies done that have shown there is a high relationship between abortion and the risk for cancers including breast, cervical and lung cancers. If a woman has multiple abortions, then her risk for some of the health risk increases. As stated by Straham after having an abortion women can then experience difficulties with future pregnancies because the abortion can damage their reproductive organs (as cited in Physical

Risks, 2007, para. 9). They are also more likely to experience infertility, stillbirths, miscarriages, and premature births (para. 9). According to Frank, about 10% of women who have an abortion suffer immediate complications; one-fifth are life-threatening, some of these complications include hemorrhage, infection, chronic abdominal pain, and second-degree burn (as cited in Physical Risks, 2007, para. 5).

A baby's heart starts beating at 18 to 21 days after conception, brain waves at six weeks; and at eight weeks, all body systems are present (Balch & Turner, 2014, p. 10). That is definitely all the signs of human life being developed. At 20 weeks of gestation, a baby can feel pain and "has the full complement of brain cells present in adulthood" (Wanlund, 2014, p. 278). Roe v Wade takes away the scientific facts that human life starts when the sperm and egg meet in fertilization. When they ruled the court case, they dehumanized that babies do not have rights of living while they are in the womb. Once they are born, they have all those rights.

In the United States we will find that women once they find out that their baby might or even will be born with Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, or even AIDS, the mother will abort. What makes a difference for these children to be loved and to have a life? There is also research done that finds that once a woman finds out that she is carrying a baby girl that she will then undergo an abortion. Sex- selective abortions are not just seen in China or India anymore. They have been seen with women traveling from Canada to the United States to obtain an abortion (Smith, 2012, para.15). With sex selective abortions it means "fewer women, fewer mothers, fewer future children" (para. 8).

Abortions also allow people to have sex and not care about the consequences. We are humans and sex is meant as a beautiful thing to reproduce. We need to teach girls that it is not okay to be

having sex as a teenager. We need to be able to wait until we can love and take care of our baby. With only about 6% of abortions being in cases of rape and incest, the rest are for social reasons (Blach & Turner, 2014, p. 17). Pro-Choice supporters say that women should have the choice to an abortion. Those same women also had the choice to have sex to begin with. When they find out they are pregnant and decide they do not want the child, they also have the choice to continue the pregnancy to full term. She can give it up for adoption or keep the baby. Why should the child never have a chance to live because the mother was not responsible with her body?

Often times we hear in this debate of politics is that a woman's health should be between her physician and herself, when in fact many women do not go to the primary physician or their ob/gyn. They go to a clinic and see a doctor they have never seen before and will never see again. The other problem with it, is what if the father of the baby wants the baby, how can he have no legal choice to help save his baby.

After the Roe v. Wade decision, Norma McCorvey worked at an abortion clinic in Texas. After a while, with Christian protesters outside the clinic, she came to realize the dignity that each baby deserves. She now has spent her life trying to reverse the decision of Roe v. Wade. She has never had an abortion and has two beautiful children and wants the truth of abortions to be known. The science of the development of a baby is much more known since the decision in 1973, as well as the effects of having an abortion. The new information should give the courts enough information to reconsider overturning Roe v. Wade. As Mother Teresa said, "The greatest destroyer of peace today is abortions because it is a war against child, a direct killing of the innocent child murder by the mother herself".

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