

The Right of Unborn Women

Her curls are bound against her scalp so they do not tangle as she sways in rhythm to the piano—the audience gasps at her beauty. Her pale eyes squint in concentration at the formulas strewn across the chalkboard—the teacher nods approvingly at her intelligence. Her sneakers shift from one position to another as she stretches for the basketball—her teammate smiles at her determination. She is creative and dangerous, anything she wishes to be. She will change the world—

Unless, she never has the chance to exist.

When many refer to “pro-life,” they conjure images of “haters” against women’s rights. However, if women’s rights are to ensure that women of every age, race, and religion are treated equally, can that be achieved if we do not treat even our unborn daughters equally? I defend life because if we, as women, are to prove that we can achieve whatever we desire, our efforts must be to ensure our daughters have that same opportunity.

An article written by Women’s Issues Expert Linda Lowen entitled “10 Arguments: For and Against Abortion” relates the standard pro-choice argument that a fetus is not a “person” yet because its health is still dependent on the mother (2016). According to one medical student, however, this “non-person” is thoroughly a person indeed (Terzo, 2013). Strictly pro-choice throughout his schooling, this student could quote the facts he had been taught, such as the child was “just a mass of cells” and did not matter (Terzo, 2013). He claimed to believe this in defense for the right a woman has to her own body. However, after witnessing an actual abortion for the first time, the student quickly realized that the body was a separate human being in itself. The student was sickened by the casual disposal of human life and abandoned his pro-

choice opinions (Terzo, 2013). Unfortunately, the many women who support abortion will never see the operation itself performed—the minuscule arms and clenched fingers torn apart because their mother “has the right to.”

This idea of convenient selection of whether or not an embryo lives does not seem much different than other issues from which feminists have sought women’s liberation, such as arranged marriages or abusive relationships. Like a woman in these relationships, a child (likely to be a future woman herself) killed by an abortion has no voice in what happens to him or her, the decision strictly benefiting someone else.

Furthermore, the pro-choice argument not only prevents us women to move forward in our struggle for equality, but also belittles the progress we have achieved already. Feminists for Life of America, an organization promoting women’s rights states, “Women deserve better than abortion” (Feminists for life: our mission, 2013, para. 1). The organization recalls suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton—both early feminists who rejected abortion (Feminists for life: our mission, 2013).

Thus, the myth that pro-life advocates are against women’s freedoms is untrue as well as contrary to the core beliefs upon which feminism itself was founded. I am against abortion because I am for women, and I believe even unborn women should have equal opportunity to fulfill their dreams. Like the medical student, I cannot think of a future being as a mass of cells. Rather, I think of a heart already beating, anxious of the challenges and victories that will shape her life to come.

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