

Sheryl Rice

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January 17, 2020

Kansas Legislation
Kansas State Capital
300 W 10 Ave
Topeka KS 66612

Re: HRC 5019

To whom it may concern,

It is every woman's right to have control of her own body. I am not a pro-abortion person. If given a choice, abortion would not be my choice. But, I am pro-choice. I feel a woman has the right to carry a fetus to term or choose to abort the fetus. The pro-birthers (not pro-life - the people who call themselves pro-life still believe in the death sentence, want a baby born but not give the child clothes, food stamps, welfare, public education, etc. They are NOT pro-life. They are pro-birth.) are usually advocates of never aborting a child.

So, if a woman is a victim of incest at 12 years of age and becomes pregnant, she must carry a fetus to full term.

She has no choice.

If a woman is a victim of rape and gets pregnant, she must carry the fetus to term.

She has no choice.

If a woman will die if she gives birth and her doctor advises her to abort, she can't because she might hurt the fetus. She has carried this fetus for seven months, prayed for it, had a spouse or significant other excited to hold a child in his or her arms and they are given the choice of their spouse or significant other - the mother of the child - or the child they knew was coming. Late term abortions are not done willy-nilly but with great weight on the parents, advice from the doctor, occasionally talking their options with grandparents, their spiritual advisor, even friends. She carries the fetus to term and dies because...

She had no choice.

And she deserves a CHOICE. Everyone DESERVES a CHOICE.

Please don't take us back to pre-Roe v Wade days when abortions were done in a back alley, unsanitary by an unaccredited doctor. When women died. When women would do their own abortions. And women died. Roe v Wade changed that because it gave women a CHOICE.

Pro-choice does not mean pro-abortion. It is just what it says. Pro-CHOICE. When a man has an appendix removed, they aren't committing murder on that appendix. They CHOOSE to have it removed. Choosing to have a clump of cells removed is not a bad thing. This is their body and they should be able to CHOOSE what to do with it.

My final say - Catholics are usually against abortion. Yet, the following statement was made by Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., a Benedictine nun in the Catholic church:

"I do not believe that just because you're opposed to abortion, that that makes you pro-life. In fact, I think in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not a child fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. And why would I think that you don't? Because you don't want any tax money to go there. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth. We need a much broader conversation on what the morality of pro-life is."

"Pro-life crusaders want to shut down women's healthcare in general. Mothers in poor health are less able to provide adequate living conditions for their children."

"Pro-life crusaders want to repeal the Affordable Care Act which would destroy universal health reforms which protect the needs of millions of children."

"Pro-life crusaders cut government programs like school lunches for children and block government financial aid to families who are homeless and/or in need."

"Pro-life crusaders want children conceived under ALL circumstances to be born. They won't come forward to adopt children from unplanned pregnancies. This frequently forces those children and their mothers into the lives of hardship that the mother was trying to avoid."

"Pro-life crusaders will not fund the extra care needed for children forced to be born into hardship."

"Pro-life crusaders are usually against funding sex education, which would prevent the need for many abortions."

To: Kansas Legislation
From: Sheryl Rice
Re: HRC 5019

Page 3
January 17, 2020

"Pro-life crusaders continually want to cut access to birth control, which would prevent abortions."

When a pro-life view like this comes from a Benedictine nun, people should take notice. And note, Sister Joan Chittister is a lecturer and author of 50 books. She holds a Ph.D. from Penn State University, and is also a research associate at Cambridge University.

Everyone deserves a choice. It's up to the individual what they do with that choice. Don't reverse Roe v Wade. Don't abolish choice. Give the right of choice to everyone.

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