

3-6-2020

I'm writing this in opposition to the Senate Bill SJ 13

Abortion is a very emotional decision. The decision to have an abortion should be up to the woman and her doctor, not to the state. Many different philosophies exist about when a fetus is a person. Some religions philosophize it's when a sperm and egg join. Some religions philosophize it's when the head emerges from the uterus and is fully formed. Others philosophize that it is a series of developmental stages. There are many moral traditions. The constitution of the United States bestowed on citizens freedom of religion. The government has no right to force one religious tradition on all women. Many believe in less government interference. Is it right for government to make a law that enslaves a woman by forcing her to give birth? Thanks to the Supreme Court decision in Roe versus Wade, abortion is legal. However, women are still free to decide not to get an abortion.

Please research the consequences of denying safe and legal abortion. Here's the crux of the matter: Lack of accessibility to abortion does not reduce abortion. In fact, the rates of unsafe abortion are highest where there are the most restrictions. According to recent estimates, at least 8% of maternal deaths worldwide are from unsafe abortion; at least 22,800 women die each year from complications of unsafe abortion. In 2014, the annual cost of providing post-abortion care from unsafe abortions in developing countries was \$232 million.

Why do women seek abortions? Financial and socioeconomic factors are among the most common reasons cited for seeking an abortion (Biggs, Gould, and Foster 2013; Kirkman et al. 2009). Abortion restriction would hurt poor women more than women who have the financial means to seek an abortion elsewhere. The children of planned pregnancies have a much better outcome in terms of being cared for, their educational outcomes, and economic independence.

Unplanned pregnancies can cause a mother to not be able to get an education, may have no other option than to be on welfare and be incapable of contributing to the workforce or providing for her other children if she has any. Forcing poor women to carry unplanned pregnancies is slavery. Think of the economic detriment to the state.

Again, a woman can always choose to not have an abortion, but if a woman is unable to support a pregnancy, please don't negate the decision of the Supreme Court, legalizing abortion. If abortion is made illegal, this state will go down in history as supporting the slavery of poor women.

Cathleen Rolph

Soldotna, Alaska 99669