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Pro-Choice: Because Children Aren't People

Right-wing conservatives have contrived a practically infinite number of absurd, crackpot theories over the years. These ideals which they hold to be self-evident, such as the purported "right" of every American citizen to keep a limitless arsenal of deadly assault weapons in their basement (Johnson), are the very same foundations used by totalitarian and fascist regimes throughout history (Seitz-Wald). A particular topic which has incredibly become one of many heated debates is abortion. As sensible, rational, and caring people, we can reach no other conclusion than to support a woman's right to do as she wishes with her own body (Brown). After all, children aren't really people; they are nothing more than parasites, draining the emotional, physical, and financial resources of their mothers.

Proponents of the "pro-choice" abortion movement have stated that embryos and fetuses are not fully-qualified as "people" (Giubilini). In fact, Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "people" as "the body of enfranchised citizens of a state" ("people"). By this definition we come to the conclusion that even children do not qualify as people. If embryos, fetuses, and children are not people, then to assert, as some right-wing extremists do (Vieira), that they qualify for the same rights as people is little more than that propagation of disinformation.

The distinction that being human is not enough to qualify for the right to life is upheld by medical ethicists, such as Alberto Giubilini and Francesca Minerva. These two contend, in an article published in the *Journal of Medical Ethics* that:

Both a fetus and a newborn certainly are human beings and potential persons, but neither is a 'person' in the sense of 'subject of a moral right to life'. We take 'person' to mean an

individual who is capable of attributing to [their] own existence some (at least) basic value such that being deprived of this existence represents a loss... (Giubilini).

The relationship between a mother and her children may be detrimental to the mother's well-being ("Pregnancy"). Beginning at conception, the mother's hormones go out of balance, her body undergoes extreme physical transformations, and with the ever-rising costs of healthcare ("The Facts"), she may be placed in dire financial jeopardy. These consequences do not end with birth, however, and may cause decades more of unrelenting and troublesome chaos in the mother's life. Many mothers suffer from depression after giving birth ("Pregnancy"), which if untreated could result in grievous and life-long repercussions for the mother. Raising a child is also an expensive process, which may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars (Covert). Any potential right to life that the child may have is always "over-ridden [sic] by the interests of actual people (parents, family, society) to pursue their own well-being" (Giubilini).

The rights of mothers to dictate what happens to their own bodies is one which has been upheld in times both modern ("Roe v. Wade") and ancient (*The Holy Bible*, Deut. 21.18-21) for all people. The concept that children, whether born or unborn, qualify for the same or similar rights as a full-fledged person is a contemporary misconception introduced by ill-worded abortion law. This confusion was partially clarified by the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. This monumental decision clearly and definitively proclaimed that the decision to abort a pregnancy falls within the Fourteenth Amendment's protection of personal liberty and privacy ("Roe v. Wade"). Regrettably, however, this decision failed to extend itself to the fullest extent, and did not include the right to post-birth abortions.

Planned Parenthood is a leading organization in the pro-abortion movement, and often advocates in congressional and committee meetings on behalf of women's rights. Lobbyist Alisa LaPolt Snow, an official representative of the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, testified before Florida

legislators in one such committee hearing that, "[Planned Parenthood] believe that any decision that's made [pertaining to post-birth abortions] should be left up to the woman, her family, and the physician" (McCormack). As legislation continually changes, groups like Planned Parenthood will be at the forefront, to ensure that women's rights receive the representation and attention they deserve.

Abortion rights have been an important issue for women worldwide since the very beginnings of mankind. The book of Deuteronomy explains, in detail, how rebellious teenagers, during the bygone days of Moses, would be brought before the judges in the land. If the child could not be reigned in, they would be taken away and stoned to death in a public execution (*The Holy Bible*, Deut. 21.18-21). This may sound inhumane by today's standards of lethal injection, though stoning was standard practice at the time. Ultimately these people understood that the mother's prosperity must always be of the highest priority. This inalienable right of mothers has not faded away into the sands of time, despite the currently flawed legislation making this distinction. In keeping with the rights the mother holds, the right to abort a pregnancy or a childhood at any point prior to adulthood must be preserved.

Despite the patently obvious nature of these matters, conservative extremists continue to antagonize and even openly assault the women who are seeking for nothing more than what is in their own best interests ("Anti-Choice"). The so-called "pro-life" movement falsely makes the claim that even unborn children are human beings who have the right to life (Vieira). Even after being disproven in federal courts more than four decades ago, these obsessive fanatics refuse to accept that embryos and fetuses do not qualify for the same rights as "people" do. Furthermore, they entirely overlook the fact that even some humans who would otherwise be considered as people have forfeited their right to life, such as a convicted death-row felon. Surely these grown men and women must qualify for life, yet somehow they do not rally with the same enthusiasm, by the hundreds of thousands (Ertelt), when it comes time to defend the felon instead of the fetus (Rubac). From this we can extrapolate that the entirety of the pro-life

movement is nothing more than an effort put on to distract from even more insidious and nefarious schemes which are being carried out, away from the public eye.

Throughout human history, we have proven time and again that there will always be opposition to any change, no matter how irrefutably it will benefit humanity or human rights. In time liberty will prevail, and the opposition to childhood abortions will fade away. Until then, women everywhere are placed in unjustifiable peril, though all we can do is spread the word of truth and hope for a brighter tomorrow. To deny the rights of mothers is nothing more than inhumane; go out, and support childhood abortions today!

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