



KNIGHTS FOR LIFE

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In defense of our unborn brothers and sisters

Committed to Education Communication and Catholic Civic Responsibility



12 weeks old

Abortion and the politics of ultrasound

April 2007 Talking Points

By Star Parker March 24, 2007 http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54845 (excerpts)

South Carolina appears close to becoming the first state in the country to require that women considering an abortion view an ultrasound image of their fetus before deciding to undergo the procedure.

The state House has passed the legislation 91-23, prospects that the Senate will pass it look good, and Gov. Mark Sanford has stated his support. Opponents call it "intimidation" and "emotional blackmail" of women seeking to abort.

According to NARAL's Nancy Keenan, "The women of South Carolina are fully capable of asking their doctor for information they need to make private, personal medical decisions. Politicians don't belong in the examining room."

Seventeen states already have or are considering legislation that would ensure that ultrasound viewing is available to women considering abortion. But South Carolina would be the first to make the viewing mandatory.

Those advancing the legislation feel that the state must guarantee that women considering abortion have all available relevant information before making this life-changing decision. The powerful images from ultrasound are surely relevant.

An increasing number of crisis-pregnancy centers now have ultrasound equipment that allows clients to see the child developing within them. Their experience shows that there is little question that this materially impacts the decision that women make. Centers report that anywhere from 62 percent up to 95 percent of women who had intended to abort changed their minds after seeing the images.

Assuming that these statistics are accurate, the question remains whether these young women changed their minds because their perceptions of the reality with which they were dealing changed, or because they were intimidated or emotionally blackmailed. Intimidation or blackmail implies some kind of threat. What exactly might that threat be? You might say that a young woman with a pregnancy she did not intend is emotionally vulnerable. I would agree with that.

It's exactly why statements from the NARAL universe that portray these young women ("fully capable of asking their doctor for information they need") as cool, sober and rational, calculating the equivalent of whether or not to have a wart removed or to get a Botox injection, are so ludicrous.

As any woman can tell you, instincts and intuition are powerful. These women are stressed because they know that suddenly the decision they have to make is not casual, that it is deeply meaningful and gravely important. Chances are, if they had the tools at their disposal to make a proper decision, they would not be in the situation they are in to begin with.

In South Carolina, as in the nation as a whole, about half the abortions that are performed are on women under 24. Around 17 percent are on women under age 19.

What kind of sense can it possibly make to suggest that a young woman, who we don't think is old enough to vote or go into a liquor store and buy beer, has the resources on her own to understand the implications of aborting a child? Is there some absence of proportion here?

When these young women see fingers, toes and a beating heart, they understand the emerging life within them. This is a profound moment of personal growth. It's what causes their change and opens the door to their own rebirth and a life with new possibilities. As in the words of the great hymn, "Amazing Grace": "Was blind, but now I see."

Gov. Mark Sanford and the South Carolina Legislature provide a model of leadership and human responsibility toward which the rest of the nation should take a long, careful and hard look.

NOTE: Since 2004 Knights For Life has helped raised over \$300,000 for seven Pregnancy Centers that have obtained a total of six Ultrasound machines. Visit our website to see a 1-minute GE-4D Ultrasound commercial and our page on fundraising for CPC's.

www.KnightsForLife.org