

Amendments 11 & 12 put the health and lives of Colorado women and teens at risk

Dear Editor,

Gary Rogers of Fort Collins targeted our state with a premeditated plan of deception with Amendments 11 and 12, the so-called partial birth abortion ban and parental notice.

First, Rogers talks of "late term abortions" (last trimester) but doesn't walk that walk. Eleven denotes no weeks or trimesters. Considering the proponents lie about fetal demise for the heck of it moments before birth, a clear delineation is demanded.

Has the Colorado anti-choice community ever met an abortion procedure they didn't want to ban? Eleven is designed to ban all abortions. But don't take my word for it. On Oct. 19, at the Loveland political rally, they were questioned. After dancing a jig around the TRUTH, the man admitted that their intent WAS to ban all abortions in Colorado with this amendment.

Further, Rogers in the Rocky Mountain News, May 16, 1998, "The language in the Colorado Initiative is very similar to the Wisconsin law, IT HAS THE SAME INTENT." Providers in Wisconsin suspended operations for a while this summer because the wording could have been

INTERPRETED as applying to ANY abortion!

Out of 1.6 million abortions in 1995, only 649 were done 26 weeks plus. They were done to save the woman's health and life.

Coreen Costello, pro-life Republican, underwent an intact D&E in her 7th month because the baby she so desperately wanted had a lethal neurological disorder. Coreen wanted her baby to come on God's time, but her baby girl was stuck in a transverse position and due to swelling, her head was already larger than that of a full term baby. She considered a C-section. Her doctors were adamant. The risks to her health were too great. (Note: eleven has no health exception.) Coreen went on to have a healthy son.

But for the grace of God go you and I. I have challenged Rogers to tell Coreen, to her face, that this procedure is never medically necessary and is only done on healthy fetuses near birth! He simply turns away.

Second, like all of you I am a loving, caring, and responsible parent. I would want to know about my daughter's pregnancy, but, I don't want government forcing her to

tell me. Of the 40% of teens choosing abortion, 61% tell at least one parent, for teens younger than 16 it is 75%. Clearly there will be some girls who won't ever, no matter what, law or no law, tell a parent. Our daughters could circumvent the law by self-aborting or seeking illegal, dangerous medical care. We MUST face the reality that desperate teens take desperate measures. It is totally illogical to suggest, as the Rocky Mountain News did, that we can "encourage" girls to begin the communication with their parents by "demanding" it by law.

Amendment 12 also requires BOTH parents be notified. In addition, because it also defines life as beginning at fertilization, the notification and waiting period could be INTERPRETED to apply before a teen could access birth control or the "morning after" pill. Read it for yourself.

I am terrified about the fate of girls in abusive homes. For four years I lived with a man who battered and raped me and molested his daughters. He was the custodial parent of his 16 year old he was making have sex with him. Had she been pregnant he would have been in a jealous rage believing she had

"another man" and he'd been desperate to keep anyone from finding out it might be his child. He would have beat or killed her, or forced her to have an abortion.

Further, I know a pregnant abused teen is not about to seek medical care if she knows the doctor must notify her parents OR tell law enforcement about the abuse, as twelve demands.

Debating me in March, Rogers danced a jig too, then finally admitted (on video tape) that twelve contains NO judicial by-pass. How arrogant of him! How dare he claim to care about girls like my step-daughter but deliberately leave out the only option girls from abusive homes could possibly hope for from such a bad law and then try to deceive Colorado voters about it!

These amendments are deliberately deceptive, vague, and designed to ban all abortions. They put at risk the health and lives of Colorado women and teens. Vote N on Amendments 11 and 12. They do not reflect Colorado values.

Sincerely,
Peggy E. Loonan
Ft. Collins

Colorado
Statesman
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