

Abortion is not a government issue

To the editor:

Responding to Rex Cornwell's April 28 letter, "Government must stop abortions," let me say that I know Mr. Cornwell — our families attended the same church in Denver when I was a teen-ager — and while he's a nice enough fellow, he is just plain wrong.

The discussion of when life begins has been on going for decades. It is a religious discussion — not a political one. And lest we forget, our forefathers themselves represented a diversity of religious thought within the Christian community.

If women are truly enfranchised, then, when formulating public policy, a woman's life and liberty cannot be absolutely subjugated to that of a fetus. Nearly all Americans believe that Roe balanced the life and liberty of each fairly. They also, without apology, believe that Roe is morally right as public policy, because it serves to give every woman the right to make her own moral decision about how she will deal with an unintended pregnancy. Mainstream America believes that women and not legislators, religious zealots, or Cornwell for that matter, should make such a decision for them.

Anti-choice religious zealots intend to subjugate the life and liberty of a woman to that of a fetus, at all times during a pregnancy and in all instances, including when a woman's life and health is at stake by making illegal each and every known abortion procedure, regardless of when in pregnancy it is performed. This type of public policy would maim and kill women. It would not protect the fetus, and it would allow the tango partner to saunter away without facing any health or life-threatening consequences.

The truth is that government can't stop abortions from occurring but it can balance the pro-

tection of life and liberty of a woman with that of a fetus.

In the formulation of public policy, a woman's life and liberty is paramount to that of a fetus prior to viability and after viability when her life and health are at stake. There are no apologies needed or given for that fact.

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