

2 papers Herald 5/28/97 Loveland

Government can stop abortions

To the editor:

Responding to Peggy Noonan's May 3 letter, "Abortion is not a government issue." While I don't know Ms. Noonan, I can say that she is just plain wrong. First, she states that the debate is a religious one — not political. Then she goes on to promote diversity among Christians. Wait a minute: There's only one Bible (all versions say basically the same thing.) His word is clear. Abortion is murder.

She goes on to state "nearly all Americans believe that Roe bal-

anced ~~the~~ life and liberty of each fairly." Really? How about Ms. Roe coming forward two years ago and admitting she lied about being raped and saying she was duped and used by the "pro-choice" side. They encouraged her to lie.

She continues to castigate "Anti-choice and religious zealots" with fervor. What does that make her? A pro-choice, anti-religious zealot. How often is a woman's life at stake? She wants to legitimize every known abortion procedure, regardless of when in pregnancy it is performed. This type of public policy maims and kills children, as well as women who have to bear emotional scars for the rest of their lives.

The truth is that government can stop most abortions from occurring (more than 30 million since 1973) and instead promote education, abstinence and dispense free birth control regardless of age or income.

But, as usual, New Agers like Ms. Noonan don't want to build more hats, they want to chop off some heads. For shame.

Patrick J. Slattery Jr.
Loveland

Stopping unintended pregnancies first step

To the editor:

Concerning Patrick Slattery's May 28 letter about abortion:

It's a fact that the Christian Bible isn't the only religious doctrine people live by. Jewish doctrine teaches that life begins at birth. Even among Christians there are differing interpretations of the Bible. I am committed to respecting religious diversity, particu-

larly when formulating public policy. I am committed to protecting every woman's life and right to make her own moral decisions while upholding mainstream America's belief that Roe balanced the life and liberty of women and fetuses correctly. Ms. Roe still supports abortion through the first trimester. I respect her choice both then and now.

Prior to viability, abortion procedures that don't endanger women's lives should never be subject to a political veto. No abortion occurs after viability unless a woman's life or health are at severe risk or there's a fetal anomaly that's incompatible with life. Out of 1.6 million abortions last year, 649 occurred post viability. No doctor performed a post-viable abortion for the sake of a "prom dress." What never saves a fetus yet maims and kills women is any abortion procedure sent underground.

I am grateful that an anti-choice supporter has publicly acknowledged that we need to address unintended pregnancy with an abstinence based, age appropriate, comprehensive sex education program, as well as birth-control availability to all sexually active human beings. While government has a role to play in that, i.e., making family planning services available to poor women and teens, so do parents and schools. Unbelievably so, anti-choice zealots in this year's state Legislature tried, again, to cut funding for Planned Parenthood's family planning programs because four of 44 clinics

perform abortions. Never mind that no family-planning money ever pays for an abortion. Government can't stop abortions from occurring in the underground, but they do have a role in pregnancy prevention, as do we all.

Significantly reducing the number of abortions depends solely on our ability to come together to prevent unintended pregnancy. Call me and we can begin that coming together of choice and anti-choice.

Peggy E. Noonan
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