

Real men must admit abortion should exist

To the editor:

In his two recent letters, Jerry Myre defines reproductive choice as a choice to have protected sex or not, excluding abortion as a reproductive choice, saying that's the way his generation understood its meaning, but that's not true. Reproductive choice always has and always will include, but go beyond, the moment of having sex for women for obvious reasons. A man who doesn't correctly use a condom and impregnates a woman can just walk away and often does. But a woman still has choices to make about whether she'll continue her pregnancy and parent or whether she'll continue her pregnancy and give up her child, or whether she'll not reproduce at that time in her life and terminate her pregnancy.

Consequently, the right of women to reproduce or not is indeed violated by a lack or denial of an opportunity to access legal and safe abortion services.

In Myre's Feb. 6 letter, he continued his end run around a male's responsibility to know how and use every time he chooses to have sex, a condom, without being demanded to do so by a partner. Myre's continual evasion of his own responsibility in making that the rule and not the exception is typical but unconscionable.

Myre and I need not spar any further. It's clear from his exchange that he's not being intellectually honest about the very intimate and inseparable bond between reproductive choice and abortion that exists and always has. Nor, sadly, is he being intellectually honest about his own gender's responsibility, totally apart from a woman's, for pregnancy prevention. Real men will admit that abortion must exist as a safe and legal reproductive choice for women because men continue to choose to have sex without correctly using a condom.

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