

Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2002 18:12:56 -0700
From: "Steve Johnson" <repsjohnso@qwest.net>
To: "Peggy Loonan" <peggy@lifeandlibertyforwomen.org>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.75 [en] (Windows NT 5.0; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
Subject: Re: Your Soapbox on Abstinence Only Education and the Alpha Center

Thank you for your comments Peggy. You wrote a lot and I need a chance to think about them. Questioning my integrity and personal attacks is not the way to get a favorable response from me or anyone else. It only speaks of your bias and inability to think rationally in an unemotional way. You ought to stick with Bill Kaufman's assessment. He knows me far better than you ever will.

Rep. Steve Johnson

-Sender: peggy@lifeandlibertyforwomen.org
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2002 18:43:19 -0700
To: "Steve Johnson" <repsjohnso@qwest.net>
From: Peggy Loonan <peggy@lifeandlibertyforwomen.org>
Subject: Re: Your Soapbox on Abstinence Only Education and the Alpha Center

Rep. Johnson, I can appreciate that you need some time to think about all I addressed and that is fine. I appreciate your timely response acknowledging my letter and I hope to hear your response to my specific concerns in the very near future.

However, there was no personal attack leveled at you sir. You did not give an accurate accounting of what The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy said and that is a deliberate oversight. Your facts about the Alpha Center's current relationship with the district is inaccurate and it clearly appears you wrote this soapbox without any idea of what they actually did present in the classroom. It does appear you weren't honest in your soapbox. The politics of the moment are real and it isn't a personal attack to question and surmise with the evidence available, a motivation that appears to clearly be political. Those facts lead me to be unsure that you are sincere in addressing what's in the best interest of our youth. Those are all very legitimate concerns and if they are unwarranted concerns, I would think that a response other than a defensive posturing would be the response you would want to give. I am not looking for a favorable response from you but I am looking for a forthright response that addresses my concerns and the evidence I presented and questions I asked.

My legitimate concerns about your motivations, sincerity, and honesty in no way speaks to a bias on my part only deep concerns I have. My legitimate concerns about your motivations, sincerity, and honesty also do not in any way serve as an indictment of my ability to think rationally in an unemotional way. In fact, my offering of the facts and evidence in the manner I presented them, speaks volumes about my ability to think

rationality in an unemotional way. I believe Bill Kaufman about you, but I also understand politics and the unrelenting demands and the power of the right wing base in this county, state and nation, but I believe that is a fact you know very well and one I don't need to recite to you. I may be cynical and untrusting when it comes to issues relating to the religious right wing but that doesn't make me incapable of rational unemotional thought.

Again, Thank you for your timely acknowledgement of my letter and I look forward to your response to my concerns and questions.

Peggy Loonan

Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2002 20:19:51 -0700
From: "Steve Johnson" <repsjohnso@qwest.net>
To: "Peggy Loonan" <peggy@lifeandlibertyforwomen.org>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 4.75 [en] (Windows NT 5.0; U)
X-Accept-Language: en
Subject: Re: Your Soapbox on Abstinence Only Education and the AlphaCenter

Fair enough. But I would ask, is there no left wing base in the U.S. or does all error rest on the right? Frankly, I see zealous bigots on both sides of this, as many, issues.
SJ

X-Sender: peggy@lifeandlibertyforwomen.org
X-Mailer: QUALCOMM Windows Eudora Version 5.1
Date: Fri, 22 Feb 2002 21:03:52 -0700
To: "Steve Johnson" <repsjohnso@qwest.net>
From: Peggy Loonan <peggy@lifeandlibertyforwomen.org>
Subject: Re: Your Soapbox on Abstinence Only Education and the AlphaCenter

Yes, there is indeed a left wing base in the US. that, like the right wing, isn't open to the middle ground in a number of issues including abortion rights. If you take a peak at our web site, you will find that Life and Liberty for Women challenges our own movement as well as anti-abortion extremists. (www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org)

But I may, let me cut to the chase. Anti-abortion extremists claim that abortion occurs (and that left wing extremist feminists in particular want this) up to the moment of birth for any reason. Not only would that violate Roe vs. Wade, but the stats and the reasons for 3rd trimester abortions belie that claim. (We have an ISSUE Article on 3rd trimester abortions) That makes for great theater but just simply it isn't true. Having said that, I am troubled by my movements reluctance to deal honestly with what abortion is. Abortion terminates, kills human embryonic and fetal life. But, under the guidelines of Roe vs. Wade it isn't wrong or immoral. That is true because pre-viable embryonic and fetal life has no right to life over a born woman. Period. And God agrees. (on our web site our first ISSUE

Article discusses this) Viable fetal life is protected by Roe except in the cases of a woman's health and life.

By the same token, anti-abortion extremists have their own owning up to do. Illegal abortion doesn't and never has stopped abortion from occurring. Illegal abortion still kills human embryonic and fetal life but unlike when abortion is legal, it also maims women and kills them. Most women who died pre-Roe died from self-induced illegal abortion not from so-called back alley butchers.

The best way to deal with abortion is to leave it legal for those women who will decide to terminate a pregnancy, legal or not and reduce the need for abortion through abstinence based age appropriate sex education, more birth control research, better birth control availability (like insurance coverage of female contraceptives) and more male responsibility in the sex act. On our web site we have an ISSUE Article dedicated to Men, Condoms, and Abortion. While women should demand nothing less than sex with protection, MEN should be offering nothing less than sex with protection. Combine those two and guess how many unintended pregnancies we could avoid? BUT all the men I talk with on the web or in person insist upon abdicating their responsibility to women. I challenge them to not just talk to young men about abstinence and respecting women and taking the first NO as a NO - But to demonstrate - operative word demonstrate - condom use too these young men. You know that men are very often very reluctant to admit that while they may have a condom, they don't know how to use it - or use it correctly. That just isn't macho.

While I tend to be more of a middle of the road person, I also look at the realistic picture. We will always have people and kids who will not abstain. They need to know what to do if they aren't going to abstain and they need access to birth control. We will always have abortion - the question is will it be legal and safe or illegal.

Thanks for asking the question.

Peggy