

Anti-choice movement must take responsibility for terrorism

Dear Editor,

For years anti-choice language has been inflammatory, emotional, and irresponsible. Changing public policy through legal means has given away to vicious harassment of patients, blockading clinic doors, bombing and vandalizing medical clinics and now fatal terrorism. Anti-choice leaders must take full responsibility for creating and feeding the fringe of their movement that has used deadly terrorism in the name of "life and God." They MUST pledge to stop using language that advocates the use of ANY illegal act and they MUST pledge to stop all illegal acts

against medical clinics and providers.

Next time terrorism strikes, anti-choice leaders may find themselves having to take responsibility for the death of a patient who was seeking a pap smear, counseling on menopause, or even a man seeking a vasectomy. Ninety-seven percent of patients who enter clinics, do so for other reasons than to have an abortion.

Coming together to address this issue won't happen until anti-choice individuals take responsibility for stopping the harassment of patients, the language of illegality and violence, and understand that only a woman herself can make decisions

regarding her own reproductive health care. No government or religion should ever dictate that decision for her.

Pro-choice individuals are good moral people, many of whom are deeply religious. Their beliefs support a woman's right to make her own reproductive health care decisions. I am enraged that anti-choice people use illegal and violent action because of a misguided belief that they are the only ones who know God's will. Terrorism of any kind, clearly, does not belong in this debate.

Finally, anti-choice public policy leaders, at the state and federal level,

who say they truly care about law and order and individual freedoms, must now walk the walk of law and order. They must work with us to seek ways to strengthen the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. They must condemn ALL anti-choice language and acts of illegality and violence that have brought this terrorism to fruition.

**Peggy E. Loonan
Board of Directors
Colorado NARAL**