

2009 Ohio Right to Life Oratory Contest Speech

By

Elizabeth Trisler

Abortion means pain – anguish – death. This one word holds 50 million silent screams. But since 1973, it's become just a normal word in America, describing a “quick, harmless procedure” to fix a “little mistake”. What does abortion *really* mean? In the words of Patrick Henry, “For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst, and to provide for it.” What *is* the truth about abortion?

When people make a decision, they draw on their knowledge of the facts about a situation to make the best possible judgment. But what happens when that knowledge is incomplete or even incorrect? It is frighteningly easy for those with ulterior motives to present only part of the facts or even to falsify information, intentionally leading the ones making the choice to the wrong decision. Offered only half-truths, and outright lies, no wonder it seems to many that the only option is abortion.

For years, abortion advocates have twisted and concealed the truth. People have the right to know all the facts before making choices. Just how “pro-choice” are abortion advocates? Just 4 days from now, Jay Leno and his wife will be hosting a fundraiser for the Feminist Majority Foundation, a radical group that not only advocates for abortion on demand, but also for the closing of pro-life pregnancy centers. This foundation, with its 400 campus affiliates, is planning a nationwide protest against facilities that dare to offer women alternatives to abortion and the support they need to choose life. Pro-CHOICE? I don't think so.

Young women are often misled about the safety of abortion – encouraged to “choose” without knowing the alarming details about it. However safely it is portrayed, the fact remains that abortion *is* dangerous. According to both National Right to Life and abortionfacts.com, possible physical side effects include, but are not limited to:

- Breast cancer
- Significant dangers for future pregnancies
- Hemorrhage
- Infection
- Severe, rapid bleeding, and
- Perforation of the uterus

Most people would try to avoid something with such dangerous side effects – IF they were informed of them.

Another lie women are told is that abortion is safer than childbirth. In 2004, a study from Finland's National Research and Development Center for Welfare and Health analyzed the death records from the previous thirteen years and disproved the myth that abortion is safer than childbirth. Records showed 101 maternal deaths from abortions, and only 27 from women who'd actually given birth – that's nearly 4 times higher risk of death from having an abortion!

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One of the most devastating effects of abortion is psychological: the guilt and grief of the parents is overwhelming. Contrary to the claims that abortion doesn't affect the parents, testimonies demonstrate that abortion has an extremely negative effect on the mental health of *both* parents. One girl wrote,

"It hurts so bad, there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about my child... There is a hole in my heart, an emptiness that may never be filled, even if I were to have other children...I told... myself that I wouldn't regret it. But I do. Every second of every day."

There were literally thousands of testimonies like that. The testimonies of the fathers were no less painful. Some fought hard to protect their unborn children, but currently, the fathers have no legal say in the future of their child. We've been told that abortion doesn't affect the father; however, I've read many testimonies of men who did all they could to protect their babies, but the law was against them. Listen to what one man had to say about this "choice":

"...Today is the saddest day of my life. I have been torn to pieces knowing that my beautiful baby girl has had her innocent life taken away from her. Today... the devil took away my little princess. I feel lost and powerless – I just wish I could change things... This is a letter I have on my bedroom wall that I ...wrote ... the day before my baby's death:

"For my beautiful princess Leah,

Today is the day before your innocent life is taken – I'm so sorry for letting you down, princess. I tried my hardest to save your life that was so precious to me and your grandmother. My life won't be right without you. You are on your way to be with the Lord... I love you darling and I always will – you live in me...

Love, Daddy - I'll never forget you..., sweetheart..."

One of the major arguments of the pro-abortion camp has been that the fetus – Latin for baby! – is not a person. Therefore, he or she does not have the rights that come with personhood. But even little kids recognize a baby when they see one. When my little brother was about 4, he saw a picture of a 10-week-old fetus, and said, "Oh, look at the cute little baby!" It's ironic – a 4-year old could see what our government still can't – or won't. It wasn't something he'd been told, or had studied, or even thought about. He just looked at the picture and saw a baby. How could I look into his innocent eyes and tell him that babies just like that are killed on purpose every day?

The facts have been twisted, concealed, or omitted altogether. The truth is, abortion is not merely an inconsequential "choice." It is a deadly decision, the memory of which will haunt millions of women for a lifetime.

A. A. Hodge (a principal of Princeton Seminary in the 1800's) said, "It is easier to find a score of men wise enough to discover the truth than to find one intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for it." These little ones cannot stand up for their rights. They cannot

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protest the slaughter of over 50 million innocent lives. So we must be their voices – we *must* stand up and fight for the rights denied them by our government. We can do that by praying, fighting in the courts, and constantly exposing the lies of those who call themselves pro-“choice.” We have an uphill battle, but this war can – and MUST – be won. Today, I urge you to join with me in becoming “intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for [the truth].”