

DEFEAT the abortion ban! DEFEAT the war on women!
¡Rechaza la prohibición del aborto! ¡Derrota la guerra contra las mujeres!

Abortion On Demand and Without Apology!
¡Aborto Al Pedirlo y Sin Disculpa!

In the last three years 50 abortion clinics have been shut down, and 2013 saw 300 new restrictions on abortion introduced on the state level. This month alone, 13 abortion clinics in Texas were forced to stop providing abortions, and a federal 20-week ban will be re-introduced to the Senate; there are five states that have only one clinic left that provides surgical abortions. Now the anti-abortion movement is targeting Albuquerque with a 20-week ban - to be voted on November 19 - because two out of the only four late term abortion providers in the U.S. practice here. **Take a stand AGAINST this ban in ABQ (misleadingly called the "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act") and AGAINST the nationwide assault on women's lives!**



Emergency Forum:
What will it take to *turn the tide*
and *defeat* the war on women?

When: Thursday, November 14, 7:00 pm

Where: 4916 4th St, ABQ 87107

Called for by Personhood for Women, New Mexico Chapter

**Abortion Rights Rally,
Speak Out, and Outreach**

When: Saturday, November 16, NOON

Where: Central Ave at Cornell Dr, ABQ 87106

Called for by Stop Patriarchy

Come contribute to the *much-needed* conversation on what it will take to reverse the dangerous trajectory of anti-abortion & anti-woman legislation and culture, *nationwide*. Join with professionals, activists, and members of PersonhoodForWomen.org & StopPatriarchy.org to tackle this question. If you have been fighting this battle for years, or are just now learning about the state of emergency abortion rights are in, it is time to ask: how do we who believe the right to abortion is essential, act in accordance with what is at stake, *actually turn the tide on these attacks and WIN?* <http://on.fb.me/HMEpGj>

Women's lives should *not* be up for a vote! The struggle over abortion rights has never been about babies; it has *always* been about control over women. Be a part of *shattering* the stigma on abortion, and *changing how people in ABQ and across the country think about abortion and about women*. This Saturday, *stand up, speak out, and reach out* in unapologetic support of abortion rights!

<http://on.fb.me/HMDx4p>

www.PersonhoodForWomen.org

www.StopPatriarchy.org

A Fetus Cannot Feel Pain, but a *Woman* Denied the Right to Abortion Suffers Intolerable Pain

August 18, 2013 | *Revolution Newspaper* | revcom.us

On June 18, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill banning abortions after 20 weeks. Rather than accurately titling the bill the “Enslave Women in Forced Childbirth Against Their Will Act,” the perpetrators of this law called it the “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.” The act is not law—now—having passed only the House. But it is yet another step towards legitimizing and enforcing, forced motherhood. Right now, 41 states ban or restrict the right to abortion after a certain point in pregnancy and eight states already have laws on the books that ban abortions after 20 weeks.

Anti-abortion forces invoke *lies* to justify forcing women to have children against their will. Todd Akin, while in Congress, claimed victims of what he called “legitimate rape” rarely become pregnant. Of course that is completely untrue. Under President Bush, the U.S. government altered the National Cancer Institute website to suggest that abortion might cause breast cancer, when all credible medical bodies have concluded that this is not true. And, in another lie, sponsors of this bill claim, in the words of U.S. Representative Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) “the baby [sic] responds the same way you and I respond to pain, by recoiling.”

The overwhelming body of the scientific literature finds that fetuses do not even begin to develop the brain connections that will be needed to feel pain at 20 weeks. But even after that point, fetuses do not respond to anything “the same way you and I” do. Pain—in any meaningful sense of the word—is not simply a reflexive nervous reaction. Pain

involves sensory, cognitive, and emotional dimensions that are only associated with a conscious, living person, not a fetus.

You want to talk about *real* pain? A woman denied the right to abortion for any reason, who is forced to bring a pregnancy to term and bear a child against her will, endures *intolerable* pain—physical, psychological, emotional, and is forced into a form of slavery.

And at *any* stage of pregnancy, there is a basic *moral* question—a question of right and wrong—of whether the rights of a *fetus* will trump the rights of a *woman*. In the article “What Is an Abortion and Why Women Must Have the Right to Choose: Life Cannot and Should Not Always Be Preserved,” (January 23, 2005) A.S.K. writes:

“If a woman doesn’t want to continue a pregnancy all the way (for whatever reason), she should have the freedom to end it, safely and easily. This is for the greater good—for the health and overall well-being of that woman, whose life we should value and cherish more than that of a partially formed fetus. And for the greater good of humanity. After all, isn’t it in the greater interests of all of humanity that women not be slaves?”

“The ‘right-to-life’ people don’t see it that way at all. They have made it crystal clear that to them the life of the fetus is more important and has more value than the life of the woman in whose uterus it is. From a social point of view, these people who want to forcibly take away a woman’s right to abortion are nothing but vicious, rabid dogs.”

“Because I love and care for the health of women...”

August 20, 2013 | Mary Lou Singleton | speech delivered at Rally to Denounce Operation Rescue

I want to thank all of you who have shown up today in support of women, health care providers and the Jewish community. I’m speaking today as a women’s healthcare provider and as a person who was raised in the anti-choice movement. My parents were the co-chairs of Pennsylvanians for Human Life and worked tirelessly to take the legal right to choose abortion away from American women. My sister was a member of Operation Rescue. I know the arguments of the anti-choice side forward and backward because their talking points were the daily discourse in my home while growing up. Like the teenagers who came to our town and bullied women at clinics, harassed our Holocaust museum, and terrorized a doctor’s family in their private residence, as a child I too believed what my parents and other authority figures told me about abortion.

Then I grew up. And I became a midwife. And I began to fully understand the complicated reality of actual women’s lives. Over one-third of the women I served as a midwife had at some point made the decision to have an abortion. And they all had very good reasons for making these choices. And they obviously weren’t murderers. They were loving, compassionate, intelligent people who had made the appropriate choice for themselves and their families.

Because I love and care for the health of women, I want to talk to you about abortion. I want to explain to you that the ballot measure being pushed on our town by out-of-state religious extremists will hurt women’s lives. This measure is being billed as a referendum on “late-term abortion” but any woman who has been pregnant can tell you that 20 weeks into a pregnancy is by no means “late term.” Twenty weeks is the middle of pregnancy, which lasts an average of 40 weeks. Twenty weeks is also the point in pregnancy when women carrying fetuses with problems often begin to get very sick, because sick pregnancies frequently result in very sick mothers. Some of these women become so sick, it becomes necessary to end the pregnancy to save their lives. If this ballot measure passes, women will be forced to continue these potentially life-threatening pregnancies.

Twenty weeks is also the point in pregnancy where it becomes possible

to diagnose severe and often lethal birth defects. On multiple occasions, I have been the midwife for a woman who has just found out that her very wanted baby is missing a brain, or kidneys, or lungs and will not survive for more than a few minutes outside of the womb. I have sat with and comforted these women as they made the agonizing decision of what to do in such horrible circumstances. While every woman’s choice may be different, I can say from deep within my heart that no one has the right to make this choice but the woman carrying the pregnancy.

If this ballot initiative passes, our city will have decided that we will force these women to carry pregnancies which will inevitably end in heartbreak and tragedy for up to another five months. We will see cases like the one in El Salvador last spring, where a woman with lupus who was carrying a baby without a brain was denied an abortion even though the pregnancy was causing her to go into kidney failure. Like the ballot measure being pushed on our town, the law in El Salvador states that physicians must work just as hard to save the life of the fetus as the life of the mother, even in cases where it is known that the baby will die immediately after birth.

This ballot measure would endanger women’s lives in ways that should terrify even women who believe they personally would never choose an abortion. If the measure passes, women will be denied life-saving care if they are miscarrying after 20 weeks and the fetus still has a heartbeat. What this means is that women will die. The world witnessed just such a death last year when a 31-year-old dentist in Ireland died because the country’s laws which were similar to this ballot measure forbade doctors from intervening when she was miscarrying. If this ballot measure passes, women could also be denied chemotherapy and radiation should they be diagnosed with cancer more than 20 weeks into a pregnancy. Last year a pregnant teenager in the Dominican Republic, another Catholic country that bans all abortion, died of leukemia after being denied cancer treatment on the grounds that it would harm the fetus she was carrying. These laws are horrific.

I ask all of you to work together to defeat this ballot measure and protect the lives of women. Medical decisions should not be made in the voting booth.