

Mina Reising

Southwestern Indiana Right to Life Scholarship Speech

20 February 2020

The iconic capitol building loomed in the distance as thousands of people surged up the street, singing and praying and holding signs aloft proclaiming their love for life. Wide eyed, gripping my own sign tightly, I followed in the wake of my group, struggling to take in everything. There was something so surreal about being in Washington D.C., the capital of the United States, proclaiming my support of the pro-life movement before the entire nation. It was there, at the 46th annual March for Life, that I was able to recognize the full impact that my generation can have on the pro-life movement. It is up to us, the young, to show the world that we will not tolerate the injustice of abortion in the world any longer.

I was born into a society that proclaims it legal for babies to be brutally murdered in their mothers' wombs. I live in a world where many women proudly defend their right to kill their own child, thinking only of their own supposed "rights" and not of the basic, fundamental entitlements for the most vulnerable among us. If I am told by the world around me that the murder of a tiny, defenseless child is not only "okay" but completely legal, then what kind of a society do I live in?

The media is a perfect example of how blind, hypocritical, and even ruthless our culture has chosen to become when faced with pro-life issues. During the Superbowl, which was watched by 102 million people all over America, Fox network refused to air a powerful pro-life commercial featuring abortion survivors. Added to this, the recent March for Life in Washington D.C. received almost no media coverage. When you compare the minimal amount of attention that the pro-life movement garners to the ample coverage that other movements receive, the difference is huge. Our society has intentionally chosen to become blind to the pro-life cause, which is highly hypocritical, considering that everyone attempting to deter this movement has already been given the right to live.

The stain of abortion has tainted society for hundreds of years, but the 1973 ruling of the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade legalized abortion and has given a woman the legal right to

terminate the life of her own child. In the 47 years since this sickening event, abortion has increased with startling intensity. Globally, there are around 125,000 babies whose lives are extinguished every day through abortion. Think of all these innocent children! Fifty years ago, before the horror of *Roe v. Wade*, citizens of America would have never believed that abortion could possibly be legalized. And yet it *was* legalized - and continues to gain power and grow progressively worse. If our society's value of human life has declined so much since the seventies, what will the world look like fifty years in the future? If we casually allow the intentional death of unborn babies, it may not be long before our government permits the killing of children who have already been born. As a matter of fact, 35 states in America allow babies born after failed abortions to be left to die. This has taken the evil of abortion to an entirely new level and leaves us wondering what new evils the future will bring.

For the youth of today, abortion has become such a commonplace occurrence that many are apt to overlook and even condone it. Through the influence of celebrities, politicians, and major leaders, the younger generations of the world are being brainwashed into believing that abortion is a safe, legal, and completely normal occurrence. Hillary Clinton once said that "you cannot have maternal health without reproductive health. And reproductive health includes contraception and family planning and access to legal, safe abortion." Her words are an example of the typical viewpoint of the pro-choice segment of society, which values a woman's right to choose above everything, even human life.

In this vein, let us consider for a moment the basic rights of an American citizen - freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, and so on. But the United States of America neglects to give its most vulnerable citizens the freedom to be born. How is this tolerated in a country that claims to be the greatest in the world? How can our lawmakers logically decide that killing children is acceptable? In the words of Ronald Reagan, "I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born." Why should those in power have the right to deny babies the chance to be born and live when they themselves have been given the gift of life? Abortion isn't logical - there is no rationalizing it. There is no way for us to convince society that abortion is evil, except by continuing to be the pro-life example that the world so desperately needs.

Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed that “he who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it” and that “he who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.” If we, the youth of today, do not stand up against abortion, we are condoning it. We have a responsibility to the generations of the future to do all we can to attempt to end abortion in our lifetimes. While this duty does not belong solely to us, I think that it is extremely important for young people to realize the impact that we can have on the pro-life movement. Abortion is an evil that we must fight to erase from society. As President of the United States Donald Trump once said, we must “work together to build a culture that cherishes innocent life. And let us reaffirm a fundamental truth: all children, born and unborn, are made in the holy image of God.” To build a culture of life, we must reassert the dignity of life as created in God’s eyes and fight for those who are too young to fight for themselves.

Saint Mother Teresa proclaimed that “if abortion isn’t wrong, then nothing is wrong.” If abortion is thought to be an acceptable option for pregnant women, then what other evils will our society perpetrate, legalize, and rationalize? In a modern world where it is considered legal and acceptable to kill babies who are living inside their mothers’ wombs, younger generations face a daunting prospect. While some will be brainwashed into becoming the next generation of “pro-choice” advocates, youth today must be made aware of the sanctity and holiness of human life so that we may continue to uphold the values instilled in us by God - that a child is a beautiful creation, a living human being from the very moment of conception. What right does a mother have to end this life? What right does *anyone* have to end this life? Put simply, life is holy. No human being has the logical right to end any life, as we have all been given the right to live by God. It is time that we stand up and fight like never before for the rights of the unborn children of the world. This we owe to future generations. This we owe to ourselves. This we owe to the Lord, who grants us life so that we may defend the lives of others.