

March 5, 2020

Testimony to the State Legislature of Connecticut

I am Dr. John Diggs, Jr., and Internal Medicine specialist from Belchertown, Massachusetts. My profession's mission is to alleviate suffering and preserve life. Unfortunately, legislative and the judicial bodies frequently make decisions bereft of some rather simple biological and medical facts. As recently as February 2020 the US Senate failed to pass a bill acknowledging the humanity and life of a newborn baby.

Allow me to state the obvious, these 3 main points:

1. Healthcare is about health and caring
2. Planned Parenthood has profits. Connecticut is financially insolvent.
3. Abortion is a controversial issue, not because of the medical facts but because of willful ignorance.

Since **health care** is about health, it should enhance, not damage health. Research done in Scandinavian all-encompassing health systems shows that women who have abortions have higher rates of death as compared to women who have given birth. The causes of those premature deaths are primarily accidents, fatal assault and suicide. Suicide is an obvious indicator of depression. This is only one thread of evidence that abortion damages the health of the mother. Since healthcare is about care, it is wrong for a person to intentionally be killed in the course of being cared for. In abortion, the baby nearly always dies; the death is intentional. This is the opposite of care

Finances. Abortion cost money. Connecticut is financially insolvent. All are aware of the fact that government in this State spends more than it takes in. While choosing to fund Planned Parenthood doesn't change the imbalance it makes it worse. Furthermore, Planned Parenthood has enough profits that it spends money on political lobbying. Planned Parenthood should use their profits, not the hard-earned money of tax payers. The Affordable Care Act claims to provide medical insurance for the uninsured. As such, public funding of entities such as Planned Parenthood should be unnecessary. Lastly, Abortion is an elective procedure. Those who elect the procedure should pay for it themselves.

Controversy. The medical facts surrounding abortion are simple. Before the abortion, the mother walks in with a baby inside of her. After the abortion, the mother walks out. The baby is in a medical waste container. The controversy that envelopes abortion is not about what it does. The controversy is about how the act is framed. Given the controversy, it is unethical to demand that all citizens be involved in funding the act. On the other hand, abortion should not be controversial. Abortion is the intentional killing of a human being. In this modern age when women routinely send ultrasound photos and videos of their unborn children to friends and family using their mobile phones, the fact that the fetus is human, alive, and has a destiny of its own can no longer be denied. This biological reality somehow escapes activists who still shout "My body, my choice. My body, my choice." Such an anti-science and anti-reality chant should never be heard again. That the chant is still repeated demonstrates either the chanters' disconnection from reality or an attempt to influence the audience to disconnect from another

person's personal choice. I will be charitable and assume that the reason is the latter, rhetoric, and not full-blown insanity. In that case, that disconnect on the basis of 'bodily autonomy' should also disconnect all other people from the financial impact of their decision.

In the 47 years since the Roe v. Wade decision famously stated "we don't know when life begins" there have been a lot of medical advances. Not only does ultrasound show babies sucking their thumbs and exercising their limbs, we have done operations on babies in the womb. We can detect the baby's blood cells in the mother's circulation. 3-D ultrasounds shows facial features which are personally identifiable and identical after the child is born. In these 47 years of medical advance, it seems morality and legislation have not kept up.

In summary, Connecticut should not use public funds for private acts that are at the very least controversial and more likely morally repugnant to large portions of its citizenry. Until legislative and judicial bodies catch up with the known fact that human beings start at conception, I have a replacement chant: "My body, my wallet. My body, my wallet. My body, my wallet."

Do not fund Planned Parenthood money taken from all tax payers.

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