



SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



End the Silence, Stop Putting Women at Risk

Dear Editor,

In 2003, five major peer-reviewed medical journals published studies showing that compared to women who give birth, women who abort their first pregnancies are more likely to suffer from depression and mental illness; more likely to use drugs or alcohol during a subsequent pregnancy; have greater difficulty bonding with and parenting later children; and have a higher risk of death from accidents, violence, natural causes, and suicide. (See www.afterabortion.org for more information.) Yet almost no one in the major media bothered to cover these stories.

Women considering abortion have a right to know about the impact abortion can have on their physical and emotional health. Abortion is a poor choice. It is time for the media and the abortion industry to end the silence and stop putting women at risk.

Privately Funded Studies Expose Government Cover-Up

Dear Editor,

Abortion advocates insist that we need lawmakers who will protect women's right to choose. Yet in 1987, when then-Surgeon General C. Everett Koop called for the government to fund a major study to assess the physical and psychological impact of abortion on women, the "pro-choice" majority in Congress refused to authorize such a study.

To date, no major government study has ever been done on the effects of abortion — a procedure which more than a million American women experience each year — yet privately funded studies published in major medical journals have shown abortion causes far more deaths, reproductive damage and psychological illness than was ever previously expected.

Are abortion defenders pro-choice or just *poor*-choice? If they truly care about women's rights and well-being, they should join pro-life activists working to guarantee that abortion profiteers will fairly inform women about abortion's risks.

Women Are Forced to Betray Beliefs and Desires

Dear Editor,

Each year, more than a million American women undergo abortions. The National Abortion Federation reports that one in five women being served by their clinics have abortions despite being morally opposed to it. Other studies show that more than half of women undergoing abortions do so because of pressure from others, such as boyfriends, husbands or parents.

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The truth is that most women having abortions are violating their moral beliefs or maternal desires. They are submitting to the pressures of others or their circumstances. Women deserve better.

Abortion supporters are actually poor-choice advocates. If they truly want to make abortion rare, as they claim, they should support alternatives and legislation that help protect women from being coerced into unwanted abortions.

Unwanted Abortions Are the Real Problem

Dear Editor,

In 1999, Richard Serron, a former abortion clinic security guard, testified at a legislative hearing that anti-abortion protestors were not a major threat to women. Instead, he said, women were regularly threatened and abused by the boyfriends and husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions.

Many women, like Deena Mitts (who was killed along with her three-year-old daughter on New Year's Day 1999 by a pipe bomb planted by her ex-boyfriend), and Stephanie Nichole Burnett (a 16-year-old Arkansas girl who was beaten to death by her boyfriend in April 2002), have even been killed for refusing to have abortions. Studies show that 30 to 60 percent of women having abortions feel forced to have abortions they don't really want. Unwanted abortions are a much bigger problem than "unwanted babies." People will grow to love the latter, but never the former.

I ask "pro-choice" advocates to stop acting as if abortion is automatically a good thing. Abortion is a poor choice. Women deserve better.

REMINDERS

- **This is often a newspaper's most-read page.** The "Letters to the Editor" page is a well-attended public forum. Your letter can help convert the "fence-sitters" by informing them about new studies documenting the suffering caused by abortion.
- **Watch for timely stories.** If your newspaper prints *anything* about abortion, respond by commenting on it and adding a fact or two. Refer readers to www.afterabortion.org for new research and information.
- **Consider email for expediency.** If it's faster and more convenient, send an email — the address is usually printed at the bottom of the "Letters" page.
- **Influence legislators.** Lawmakers read letters to the editor to gauge what people are thinking. They monitor the content and number of letters on a particular issue.
- **Organize a letter-writing campaign.** Your group can send a few letters each month, or as current issues arise.
- **Use the samples as a guide, adding your own wording and insights.** Use the information from the enclosed fact sheets or the latest news and information from www.afterabortion.org.