

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [abortionlawreform](#)  
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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10  
To whom it concerns,

I used to believe that abortion was a choice of freewill.... that a woman had a right to make.

I had that belief at a time in my life, before I became a mother, when I was a young 'educated' student, and also at a time when the medical division thought that babies (lets include foetuses) could not experience the sense of pain, emotion or have a sense of connection with their mother.

Years later, As a nurse, a midwife, and now a mother of two boys, many of my opinions have changed. Firstly, in the medical profession, we now know that babies do indeed feel pain, and hence we now give them pain relief before procedures. We now know that they experience emotions and as pregnant mothers we sense their emotions and make a connection with that foetus almost as if we know their personality inside the womb.

Being a mother, I think, entitles me to much more of an 'educated' status than that of my former student self. And having added some years to my age and some life experience to my resume I now can support the belief that Abortion, at any weeks gestation, is horrifyingly wrong and is murder. I would like to also state that abortion is an act that is not only physical in its consequences but is such that it can leave a mentally debilitating scar on that woman for the rest of her life.

The sadness to it, though, is that women are not fully aware of the reality of abortion and its consequences before committing to the act and it is brushed off as though it were a simple procedure, a familiar process, and an 'others have done it before kind of event'. The woman is not at all aware of the psychological aspects that take place before and after....and for the rest of their lives. No amount of counselling or preparation can ever prepare a woman for the stark reality of what abortion is. And once it is done...it is done.

In this day and age we are a society who engagingly accepts un-married mothers and fathers, accepts mothers who are still in their teens, and we strive to support them financially and socially. No longer do we have the pressures to commit acts such as abortion because we fell pregnant too young or because we weren't married yet. We unfortunately still have victims of rape and families who fall below the poverty line but this too can be worked through with avenues such as adoption and financial support etc. Of interest I wonder in this day and age if some of the above reasons are still primarily the reason for abortion....or is it now that it has become far too convenient to get rid of a baby because "we can't afford it", even though we are purchasing expensive cars and houses that we may never be able to afford, or for the reason that "I had a one night stand and fell pregnant and I don't want a baby yet", though we happily think we are ready for the sexual act that gets us there in the first place. Many more reasons from holidays, to career disturbances....it's sad. Are we creating a wasteful, non consequential generation....I think so.

Can I ask you, as people in a position of power in the law, to think about the society we are creating by the values we stand by, and reflect on the stark reality of abortion. It is murder and one day we will look back on this in horror, and you will have either taken a stand against it or will have supported it.

Yours Sincerely,  
Judi-ann Selke

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