

Life and Liberty for Women

abortion safe and legal

today - tomorrow - forever

Defending Roe vs. Wade with Proactive and Radical Strategies

**It need not be feared
- It must be embraced**

Over the years, abortion rights organizations have become more "conservative" in their approach to protecting Roe vs. Wade. In the 80's, seeking to expand their base of support at the ballot box and bank, they courted moderate republican and independent voters. Their vote and money began to exert tremendous influence over the type of defense strategies employed, virtually disarming the abortion rights movement leaving it unable to employ proactive and radical strategies to protect Roe. Such disarmament has resulted in state and congressional legislation that's unraveling the balancing of the right to life and liberty of woman and fetus that Roe accomplished and that disarmament facilitated the election of a President in 2000, who is hostile to Roe, owes a debt to the fundamental Christian right and who in his first four year tenure is likely to be successful in overturning Roe through Supreme Court appointments.

The street corner pro-activism and radicalism of the 60's and 70's had won women the right to finally control their own fertility, a crucial step toward obtaining equality. But since the 80's pro-activism and radicalism have become so unacceptable to an aging, increasingly more conservative or middle of the road abortion rights constituency with the ability to deny their vote and generous amounts of money, that pro-activism and radicalism haven't just been abandoned as strategies to protect Roe, they've become strategies to fear and run from.

Life and Liberty for Women doesn't fear and will not run from radicalism or from the opportunity to be proactive. We will embrace those strategies.

For the want of courageous pro-activism and radicalism by the abortion rights movement since the early 1980's, many die hard abortion rights supporters are tired and frustrated and many have hunkered down, fearing either antiabortion harassment and violence or loss of friendships and jobs because of their abortion rights support.

For the want of courageous pro-activism and radicalism by the abortion rights movement the pictures of alleged aborted fetuses and the baby killing rhetoric has stood on the public street corner without the graphic pictures of illegal abortion challenging the pro-life declarative that fetuses have a right to life and liberty over women conception to birth and for many without exception - ever. That has made many women and abortion rights supporters feel ashamed to publicly declare that women and not just fetuses have a right to life and liberty, which Roe vs. Wade correctly and morally balanced with that of a fetus. Privately women speak of their belief in their right to life and liberty as proclaimed in Roe but it isn't safe to publicly say so any longer let alone stand on the street corner with a graphic reminder of the toll on women's lives illegal abortion had pre-Roe. That is the fault of the current abortion rights movement who has failed to courageously lead the way.

The abortion rights movement no longer speaks in bold loud and vivid language, or with body language that emanates confidence, courage, and the knowledge that the higher moral ground is where we stand, not where they stand, and certainly not on their radar screen anymore is proactive radical strategies.

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The current abortion rights movement has tied themselves in knots by thinking too much about what it is they say and how they say it. They tie themselves to simple one line political messages to protect moderate voters and financial supporters from hearing truth about the various issues of abortion that they don't want to hear rather than educating them about those truths and they worry way too much about appeasing various political allies. Without a doubt these judgments and strategies have adversely affected the movement's influence and effectiveness. They are no longer acting in the best interest of the issue, the best interest of every woman and they can no longer honestly and forthrightly defend and protect Roe vs. Wade.

The current abortion rights movement has failed its core constituency and sustained heavy losses of access to abortion and contraceptive services at the federal level and in many states, and they have failed to make an important case to their constituency that there are times, more often now than not, when they must consider being one issue voters.

It is time that pro-activism and radicalism return as strategies to protect and defend Roe vs. Wade. When you publicly compare the alleged pictures of aborted fetuses with the graphic pictures of illegal abortion and the emotional stories of women who were hurt and killed by illegal abortion, the impact and response from an audience of antiabortion persons and persons who have grown up since Roe, is not something to be feared but replicated over and over again. Consider this experience:

Life and Liberty for Women did just that in a November 2000 debate with an antiabortion extremist and in the picture above where the night before, on Saturday January 20, 2001, 4 of us stood, braving freezing cold temperatures outside the local Planned Parenthood with the graphic picture you see above.

On Sunday, January 21st when the Larimer County Colorado Right to Life held its rally opposing the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade at this church, two of us again braved the freezing cold to contrast their pictures of alleged aborted fetuses and baby killing rhetoric with the truth and reality of illegal abortion.

To say the least our appearance was unexpected, left them shocked and somewhat speechless. We were approached by their leader and asked to cover our picture when their children emerged from the building to begin their march. (Interestingly - not 20 minutes later did an elderly man emerge from the church with one of their pictures and went across the street.) We of course said no. We told them that parents could steer their children away from the picture or they could explain the picture to their children.

The press covered our appearance because the press always shows up at antiabortion events. So from now on - we will be where they are - we'll continue to counter-demonstrate.

Not one anti-abortion letter to the editor appeared after either the November debate or our counter-demonstration. After all, what can they say when publicly confronted with the truth in such graphic style? Think about it. What can they say and how can they defend their position that criminalizing abortion will save babies when we so publicly and graphically expose that strategy of dealing with abortion as a killer of women and babies, not the savior?

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So very disingenuously, antiabortion extremists blubber about the sacredness of human fetal life. They bemoan fetal death from legal abortion all the while willing to allow a woman and her fetus to die from illegal abortion. The sign above Gerri's picture reads: "Pro-life Your Name Is A Lie - You Don't Care If Women Die." Confront them - publicly - call a spade a spade - and they have no rock to hide under. They have no defense and what's more - trust me when I tell you that they are as aware of that as anybody. Knowing that - using that AND not being afraid to defend the killing of innocent human life - prior to viability - under the strict guidelines of Roe vs. Wade - preventing the death of women and innocent human life from illegal abortion, is not only right and moral but it is our higher moral ground.

Life and Liberty for Women believes in the mission of the various abortion rights organizations that today make-up the whole of the abortion rights movement and we believe they all have a critical role, uniquely alone, and in coalition with other abortion rights organizations, in defending and protecting Roe vs. Wade, but to continue the current failing strategy that exiles pro-activism and radicalism, that hinders the placement of the issue itself as first and foremost to be concerned with and which continues to fail poor and minority women and teenage girls is unacceptable.

Life and Liberty for Women has taken the plunge and will be proactive and radical. We will create the forthright language, lose the fear, call a spade a spade, display the horrific sights and sounds of illegal abortion wherever we can - including on the street corner in a counter-demonstration - and we'll defend the killing of human fetal life - prior to viability - under the guidelines of Roe vs. Wade.

We will preach and teach the need to women and men of preventing unintended pregnancy and boldly and publicly challenge the male gender to be real men and take responsibility for preventing thousands upon thousands of abortions by correct and consistent condom use.

Life and Liberty for Women will do it alone - just two or three of us if need be - because protecting and defending Roe vs. Wade, keeping abortion safe and legal for all women is our only focus and goal.

We are encouraged from what we hear, that there are many abortion rights supporters who believe in our approach, strategy, and our activities and who would be willing to financially support us in our efforts and/or be willing to join us on the street corner.

In advance we wish to let you know we appreciate and are gratified by your encouragement, and your financial and volunteer support, more than any words could ever convey.

Peggy Loonan
Founder and Executive Director

Please let us hear from you today!

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