

# The Prevention of Abortion

**Name:** Allie Wunderlich

**Age:** 16

**Grade:** 11

**School:** Castle High School

Julie Green, a 17 year old high school dropout from a small town in Colorado, meekly enters a small brick building. She is greeted by a short, middle aged woman who witnesses Julie's situation much too frequently. When asked if ready, the teen gives a slight nod and is escorted to a back room. After a short procedure bearing lifelong consequences, Julie exits the building with a heavy heart and a guilty conscience. She has just experienced her first abortion.

The above situation is occurring much too frequently in this day and age, and it is imperative that we, as citizens of the United States and the makers of the country's future, put a stop to it. According to the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, there are about 1.37 million abortions per year in America, with about 3,700 per day. That means that about 1.37 million children's dreams are cut off before they are even given a chance, 1.37 million opportunities to change the world are missed, and 1.37 million humans lose their right to life. The question facing this inhumane issue becomes one of morals, ethics, and compromise.

Not surprisingly, the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform says that 73.8% of all women who have abortions have never been married or are divorced. The site also says that ninety-three percent of the women who have abortions get them for social reasons (the child is unwanted, inconvenient, etc.). According to Teen Shelter, about one million teenage girls become pregnant each year in this country. Of those one million pregnancies, there are about 520,000 births,

405,000 abortions, and 80,000 miscarriages. These statistics show that many of the women who obtain abortions do so because they are not ready for children. What method is the government currently using to end this vicious cycle, and how can we improve upon the present tactics?

Currently, there are very few laws against the completion of abortion. Many people believe that the government is attempting to get to the root of the problem by teaching abstinence-only education in schools. On the contrary, according to The Heritage Foundation, in 2002, federal and state governments spent about \$1.73 billion on many different contraception promotion and pregnancy prevention programs. About \$653 million of that was spent on funding contraceptive programs for teenagers, while programs teaching abstinence only received an estimated \$144.1 million. That means that for every \$1 spent promoting abstinence, \$12 was spent promoting contraceptive use. The laws preventing abortion are also very slim in this country. From state to state, the rule varies on parental consent for teenage girls who want abortions. In many areas, no parental consent is even needed.

The government should be focusing less on promotion of contraceptives to teenagers, and focus more on education about the consequences of pre-marital sex. There should also be more emphasis placed on adoption. Instead of promoting abortion, agencies should encourage and support adoption first

and foremost. According the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, about 14% of all abortions in this country are funded with public money, mainly coming from states. The public should *not* be paying money to end the lives of innocent victims of irresponsibility. That money should be put toward funding the lengthy process of adoption and the support of its promotion.

There are various methods and changes we as a country can make to lessen this epidemic. As mentioned previously, we should be placing more emphasis on the value of abstinence. Contraceptives can easily fail, but abstinence is 100% foolproof. We should be promoting the value of abstaining until marriage, which would not only prevent unwanted pregnancies, but which would also build marital trust within relationships. With contraceptives readily available, partners are free to have irresponsible sexual relations which can lead to unwanted pregnancies and therefore to abortion.

Another method we should be utilizing is censorship. The youth of our country can easily turn on the television and watch programs that are centered on sex, drugs, and violence. Our children grow up seeing their favorite actors living in love affairs and having premarital sex, yet never having to deal with the consequences. People grow up with unrealistic expectations about relationships. If we focused our media on positive, morally sound programming, sexual relations outside of marriage wouldn't be so acceptable and everyday to

the public. People would be more apt to keep responsible relationships and therefore we would reduce the pregnancy rate. Reducing the pregnancy rate would lead to a reduced want for abortions.

Promoting family values is another way to reduce the need for abortions. Statistics from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy show that “teens who have strong emotional attachments to their parents are much less likely to become sexually active at an early age.” Also, teens who have been raised by the same mother and father (together) since birth are less likely to have sex than teens who grow up in any different family situation. Just by reducing the sexual activity of teens, we can reduce the want for abortions. Family support would also be greater throughout the adoption process. A pregnant woman with a strong family support system behind her could easier make the journey through pregnancy, and could use that extra strength in choosing to place the child up for adoption or to keep the child.

It is very important that we push laws against abortion as well. If women were not given the chance to legally abort their baby, they would be more apt to keep the child or place it in the adoption agency’s hands. Since abortion is currently so accessible, it is very easy for women to make the decision to give up their babies. By putting anti-abortion laws into place, the only two options

open to mothers would be adoption or raising the babies on their own. Murder against the powerless would finally be considered a crime.

Because abortion is not yet illegal, we should focus on pre-abortion therapy for women considering the operation. Women who have gone through with abortion and who feel the heavy guilt associated with it should talk to prospective patients. There should be required morals and family values classes before women are able to undergo abortions as well. These classes would have the power to alert the conscience of the pregnant women so that they decide to take another route that is not only safer for them, but ethically and morally right.

The aforementioned methods are not our only options. There is a world of choice out there that we can utilize and latch on to. Using morals and ethics, we can attempt to sway the thinking of those who either support or are contemplating having an abortion. The fact of the matter is that we need to do all we can to save the lives of the precious little children who have the potential to change the world. We can choose to ignore the problem, or we can choose to fix it.

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