

Women deserve better than abortion

In her recent Writers' Group column ("Emma Goldman Clinic deserves to be around another 40 years," Oct. 26), Karen Kubby describes a "clinic" that is woefully inadequate in providing quality healthcare for women. Kubby states the Emma Goldman Clinic provides "informed consent, patient advocacy and client centered care." Her claims are far from the truth.

Emma Goldman Clinic and other abortion facilities like it, do not fully inform women about human development during pregnancy, nor do they discuss the increased risks associated with abortion such as depression, infertility, future miscarriages, breast cancer, and even death. The facility is not interested in advocating for women to determine what resources or support they might need in order to keep their baby or consider adoption. Women approach these "clinics" looking for help and instead are treated like a commodity and asked to sacrifice their baby on the altar of convenience and ideology.

Most women don't have an abortion as a first choice but as a last resort because they feel they have no other option. Those at the highest risk for having an abortion are college women, young working women, and low-income women. The primary reason cited for having an abortion is lack of financial resources and emotional support. Is the "choice" of an abortion the best we as a society can offer women? To encourage these women to choose between an education or a career and the life of their baby is a travesty. Why don't abortion advocates lobby universities to provide support and resources for pregnant and parenting students? Why not challenge more businesses to provide opportunities for child care, flexible work schedules and telecommuting? Financially supporting centers such as Informed Choices Medical Clinic in Iowa City can help women make life-affirming choices.

We should not be surprised by the increasingly violent world in which we live, especially in acts of abuse against women and children. Objectifying and discarding human beings in the womb doesn't automatically cease at birth. Treating women with dignity and respect requires that we equip them with complete and un-biased information about their health and the health of their child. Working to provide the necessary resources for women to

embrace their child instead of being pressured to discard it, must be our collective goal, not our ideological divide. Unlike the opinion of many politicians and abortion advocates, pregnancy is not a disease that must be selectively eradicated but a natural process through which all human life enters this world. Abortion is not the solution but a sign that we as a society have failed women. We can and we must love the woman and her baby. Eliminating the causes that drive women to abortion will give them the freedom to make the choice for life.

Sheryl Schwager
Executive Director
Johnson County Right to Life
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