

Reversing the Gender Gap

- TOUCH THE HEARTS
- EARN THE TRUST
- EARN THE SUPPORT OF

**30 MILLION
POST-ABORTED WOMEN**

**THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE
FOR PRO-LIFE CANDIDATES**

Reversing the Gender Gap: Touch the Hearts, Win the Trust, Earn the Votes of 30 Million Post-Abortive Women: The Essential Guide for Pro-Life Candidates

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INTRODUCTION

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**What You Must Know
to Reverse the Gender Gap**

At least one of every four women voters has had an abortion. For most, the abortion was an ugly, painful experience. For many, it was unwanted or coerced—undergone only because they felt they had no other options.

These women know, firsthand, that the abortion industry has failed women.

This is why, contrary to popular belief, the vast majority of women who have had abortions don’t support the radical agenda of pro-abortion groups. Instead, most would be glad to see abortion go away—but only if it can be done in a way that helps women. (Remember, they’ve been there. And they are deeply concerned about other women who face the same problems and pressures.)

Even more important, you must understand at least a few basic facts about post-abortion psychology. Since the Elliot Institute is the leading source of research and outreach materials on post-abortion issues, we can help you.

Here is perhaps the *most important* point to keep in mind:

Many women who have been involved in abortions believe that pro-lifers are ready to judge and condemn them, and that pro-lifers do not really understand the obstacles women may face when they become pregnant. Many didn’t want abortions, but ended up doing so because they felt they had no other options.

Therefore, the most important message you need to convey to them is your concern for protecting the rights of women and that you truly care about them, their experiences, and the circumstances that led to their abortions.

On the other hand, if you fail to convey this message, women who have been involved in an abortion are more likely to lean toward the “pro-choice” candidate. Why? Because they hear in the “I’m pro-choice” rhetoric, “I don’t judge you, but my opponent does.”

That, in a nutshell, is the real source and cause of the gender gap.

All other variables being the same, women who have had abortions tend to be more concerned about the abortion issue than are men who have been involved in an abortion. Post-aborted women are less likely to vote for a pro-life candidate because pro-life politicians have traditionally failed to address the concerns of those who have had abortions and have allowed themselves to be portrayed as judgmental.

In this booklet, you will learn not only how to neutralize the issues that have created the gender gap, but also about the importance of addressing the real concerns of women who have had abortions, and the need to connect with them on a strong emotional level. If you do this, then you will be able to make your pro-woman/pro-life message clear and will become the much preferred choice over your “pro-choice” opponent.

If you follow this approach, there is no need for a political trade-off.

This approach will not lose your support from pro-life voters. It will actually strengthen it.

It will also strengthen your support from people who are fence-sitters on the abortion issue. They tend to be concerned about the morality of abortion but also have a desire to help women facing difficult or seemingly impossible circumstances. They too will appreciate your morally sound, compassionate, and woman-centered approach to this issue because it clearly puts you on the side of *both* unborn children and women.

Further, you will no longer feel defensive when the abortion issue comes up. Instead,

your compassionate, common-sense approach to the abortion controversy will reveal that you are the one who truly cares about women, both before and after they have had abortions. Your opponent, by contrast, will be exposed as being less concerned about protecting women from unwanted, coerced and dangerous abortions than he or she is about protecting the abortion industry’s profits.

Bottom line: You are about to learn how to approach the abortion issue in a way that will help you get your message across, avoid misunderstandings and resonate with voters—regardless of how often or in what circumstances they believe abortion should be legal or not.

This new pro-woman/pro-life position will be of such strong appeal to voters, that it will become one of your favorite issues to address rather than the one you dread. At the same time, as you are able to boldly, confidently, and compassionately address the real concerns of women who have had abortions, your opponent will be left sounding evasive, insensitive, or confused.

Please read on, and you will see how polling data and human psychology confirm that this approach is *the* best way to align public sentiments around your pro-woman/pro-life message.

BACKGROUND POLLS AND INSIGHTS

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Women Dislike Abortion

A major poll of women's concerns commissioned by the pro-abortion Center for the Advancement of Women (CAW) in 2003 found that fewer than one-third of Americans (30 percent) believe abortion should be generally available. Fifty-one percent had a strongly restrictive opinion, with 17 percent favoring a total ban on abortion and 34 percent saying it should be allowed only in cases of rape or incest or to prevent the death of the mother.

CAW president Faye Wattleton, former president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, admitted that the poll confirms a steady decline of support for abortion among women. Indeed, the poll found that keeping abortion legal was the *next to last* most important priority for women.

Preventing domestic violence was the most commonly supported concern (92 percent), followed by equal pay for equal work (90 percent). By contrast, only 41 percent gave any priority to the goal of "preserving abortion rights." Having more time off work to care for family (74 percent); reducing drug and alcohol addiction (72 percent); and increasing women's study of math, science, and technology (66 percent) all garnered much more support than abortion.¹

While the CAW poll did not identify if respondents had actually had an abortion, other polls have shown that women who have experienced abortion generally have a just as negative, or an even more negative, view of abortion. For example, a survey of American women who had undergone an abortion found

that 64 percent felt pressured to abort by others.² Moreover, a survey of women in post-abortion support groups found that 53 percent felt forced to abort by others, and 83 percent would have carried to term with more support from those around them.³

Most women who have had abortions are not so much “pro-choice” as they are pro-compassion. They empathize with the unique and often overwhelming challenges faced by many women. They often resent the seemingly snap judgements and public condemnation of who have had abortions, especially those who were pressured, coerced or forced into abortion (more on this later).

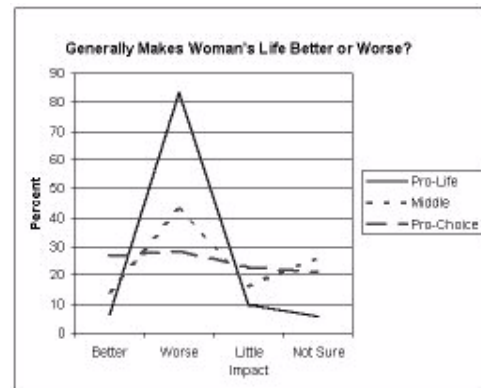
When women who have had abortions vote for a “pro-choice” candidate, they are usually not casting their vote because they support abortion (which for most was an unwanted and ugly experience). Instead, they are voting for candidates whose support for abortion seems to imply an understanding of the realities women face. When pro-life candidates keep silent on these issues, or condemn abortion without acknowledging the realities of women’s experiences, it seems to imply judgement or a lack of compassion toward women.

Americans Know Abortion Doesn’t Improve Women’s Lives

A national opinion poll commissioned by the Elliot Institute in December 2002 (± 4%) asked, “When a woman has an abortion, do you think it generally makes her life better, worse, or has little impact?” Overall, only 16 percent of Americans believe abortion generally makes women’s lives better and 52 percent believe it generally makes women’s lives worse.⁴

As seen in Figure 1, even when respondents are divided by how closely they identify themselves with the “pro-life” or “pro-choice” label, the most commonly held belief in each category is that abortion generally makes women’s lives worse. It is also notable that “pro-choice” women were 43 percent less likely

Figure 1



than “pro-choice” men to believe that abortion improves a woman’s life, one of many indicators in the poll that women across all ideological groups have a more negative view of abortion’s impact than do men.

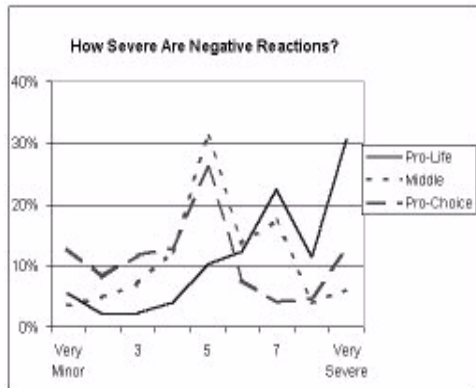
Also, the relatively high levels of uncertainty among the “middle” and “pro-choice” groups in response to this question suggests that the views of many in these groups would be strongly influenced by evidence of abortion’s harm to women.

Americans Suspect Negative Abortion Effects Are More Common and Severe Than We Are Generally Told

Asked how many women suffer emotional problems after an abortion, only 15 percent stated that emotional problems were rare or uncommon, 27 percent stated it was moderately common, and 59 percent stated it was very common.

Respondents were then asked to rank the severity of emotional problems following abortion on a scale from 1 to 9. Overall, only 20 percent believed emotional problems were relatively minor (1-3), 42 percent believed they were moderate (4-6), and 38 percent believed they were severe (7-9). The breakdown by political ideology is shown in Figure 2. Those who

Figure 2



identified themselves as “strongly pro-choice” or in the middle were most likely to believe that the negative emotional effects are moderately severe. Pro-lifers were most likely to consider the effects very severe.

Another question in the survey (not shown in graph form) revealed that most people (74 to 90 percent) believed abortion clinics do not fully disclose the emotional risks of abortion to women. Even among the most “pro-choice” respondents, only a minority believed that clinics give their patients very complete counseling about the emotional impact of abortion.

Americans Know Abortion Is Wreaking Havoc on Women’s Lives

The Elliot Institute poll shows that even though the media have ignored a large number of studies documenting physical and psychological complications associated with abortion, most people, and especially women, are still inclined to see abortion as a harmful experience.

It is most likely that this negative view is largely based on personal experience or observations of the abortion experiences of those around them. If the public is further educated about the risks of abortion in the context of political debates, it is likely that these negative attitudes would be even further strengthened.

Pro-abortion “experts” can swear up and down that abortion is safe, but the public will know this is posturing. Too many people now have some personal experience with abortion or know someone who has been through an abortion. They know abortion is a painful, devastating and often unwanted experience—one that many women and girls would not and do not freely choose for themselves. They know it is haunting people’s lives.

This is why you shouldn’t be afraid to state that, “as everybody knows,” abortion is wreaking havoc in women’s lives. You do not have to prove that all women are hurt by abortion—but you should remind people that it does hurt many women and we must be concerned for them. This statement not only conveys your concern but also affirms the average listener’s understanding that abortion isn’t truly helping to improve women’s lives—while also reinforcing the commonly held view that abortion is fraught with negative side effects that can plague women over many years.

Coerced Abortions: The Neglected Tragedy

How many political candidates would be willing to publicly defend coerced abortions? None—yet in a survey of American women who underwent abortions, 64 percent reported that they were pressured to abort by others.² Indeed, most abortions are primarily the result of lack of support, pressure, emotional blackmail, coercion, manipulation, deceptive counseling, threats or even violence from partners, parents, employers, doctors, counselors or others with influence over women’s lives.⁵

Making it easy for women to get a legal abortion has also made it easy for others to pressure women into unwanted abortions. If given support, options and resources to have their children, the vast majority of women having abortions would continue the pregnancy. Instead of receiving support, however, many find that they are encouraged, pressured,

pushed, lied to or even threatened until they undergo an abortion. Indeed, studies have found that homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women,⁴ and in a number of cases, women were killed or assaulted for refusing to abort or because the father didn't want to pay child support.⁶

Further, inadequate, inaccurate or deceptive counseling—or no counseling at all—can also act as a form of coercion. The previously mentioned published study of American women who underwent abortions found that even when women were uncertain about having an abortion, most were not given adequate help or information:

- More than 50 percent described themselves as feeling rushed or uncertain before the abortion
- 79 percent said they were not counseled on alternatives to abortion
- 84 percent said they did not receive adequate counseling before abortion
- 67 percent said they received no counseling before abortion.²

While the pro-life movement has done a good job of raising awareness of the humanity of the unborn child, it has generally done a poor job of focusing public attention on the problem of unwanted, coerced and forced abortions. Indeed, it seems incredible that the pro-life movement has failed to make this a centerpiece issue.

Pro-life candidates—and all pro-lifers—need to share this information and focus public attention on this problem.

Coerced abortions exposes abortion as “the unchoice” and dispels the myth that women are freely choosing an abortion according to their own consciences and maternal desires. In fact, at least 70 percent say that abortion violated their moral beliefs and maternal desires.⁷

Focusing on coerced abortion also exposes the injustices many women face and the need

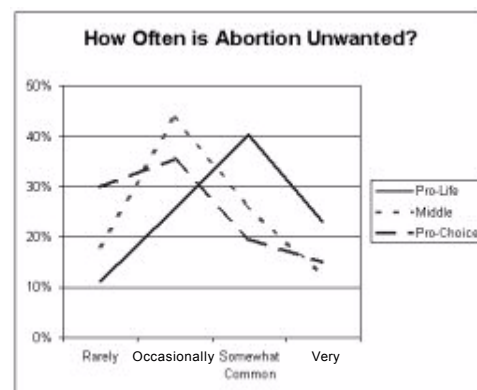
for accurate information, viable options and real support that would allow a woman to continue a pregnancy that may not be “wanted” by those around her. As pro-choice feminist Germaine Greer has pointed out, when a pregnancy is unwanted:

“[I]t will be [the woman's] duty to undergo an invasive procedure and an emotional trauma and so sort the situation out. ... Her autonomy is the least important consideration. In both cases she is confronted with other people who know better than she what she ought to do.”⁸

Americans Are Primed to Recognize the Problem of Coerced Abortion

Even though coerced abortions are not yet a major public issue, our Elliot Institute poll has shown that the public is already aware of this problem. It may not be an issue at the top of their minds, but when asked how often women feel “pressured by other people or circumstances to undergo unwanted abortions,” only 20 percent said this was rare, while 46 percent said it was common or very common.⁴ Figure 3 shows the breakdown by ideological association.

Figure 3



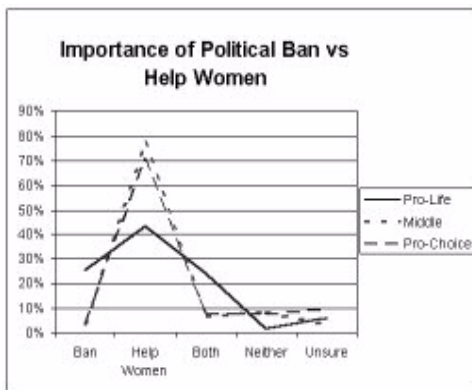
This data shows that the general public is inclined to believe and share your concerns regarding unwanted abortions if the problem is called to their attention.

Remember, also, that the CAW survey found that women are far more concerned about preventing domestic violence than they are about protecting unrestricted access to abortion.¹ Coerced abortions are connected to abuse and domestic violence, and are a form of abuse in and of themselves. When you link these injustices together and show how abortionists abuse and exploit women, Americans will support pro-woman/pro-life proposals that will protect the rights of both women and unborn children and stop coerced, unwanted and unsafe abortions.

Protecting the Authentic Rights of Women is Americans' Top Priority

In the Elliot Institute poll, a nationally representative sample was asked, "Which are more important, political efforts to ban abortion or service programs that present women with alternatives and support those who suffer emotional problems after abortion?" Overall, 76 percent believed helping women was more important or equally important—answering "both"—compared to banning abortion⁴ (see Figure 4).

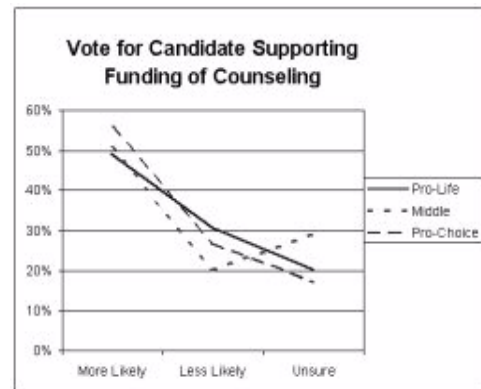
Figure 4



In addition, when asked if they would be "more or less likely to vote for a candidate who calls for government support for grief

counseling programs to assist women who experience emotional problems after an abortion," 52 percent said they would be more likely to vote for such a candidate (see Figure 5).

Figure 5



This position was especially attractive to "pro-choice" women, of whom 63 percent stated they would be more likely to vote for such a candidate compared to only 46 percent of "pro-choice" men.

In this and other areas, our polling indicates that women are generally more responsive to this pro-woman strategy than men. This probably reflects that women, either through their own experience or through their observations of abortion's impact on friends or relatives, are more likely to be aware of and concerned about negative reactions to abortion.

In addition, when asked how important more research on women's emotional reactions to abortion is, 74 to 81 percent stated it should be a medium to high priority. This finding again reflected broad support for government involvement in ways that would protect the rights of women. It also shows that women want to know about the true risks of abortion to them and their loved ones.

Further, a survey of women seeking medical services found that, when it comes to elective medical procedures, 95 percent of respondents

wanted to be informed of all the risks of the procedure and 69 percent wanted to be informed of all possible alternative treatments, not just those preferred by their doctor. Further, when asked about elective gynecological or obstetric procedures such as abortion or sterilization, the results indicated that, on average, women wanted to be given more information than they did with other elective procedures.⁹

Conclusions

The Desire for Pro-Woman/ Pro-Life Leadership

What do all the polls, focus groups and insights from post-abortion counseling experts reveal?¹⁰

- Women don't like abortion.
- Many abortions are not freely chosen, but instead are the result of coercion, which can include intense pressure, disinformation or even force.
- Most Americans believe abortion frequently results in moderate to severe psychological problems.
- They are not concerned about packing the Supreme Court with pro-abortion justices.
- They are concerned about women and girls who are pressured, coerced or forced to undergo unwanted abortions.
- They are concerned about promoting post-abortion healing and better alternatives to abortion.
- They, like most people in the middle majority, would be glad to see abortion rates decline as long as this goal is achieved in ways that would not harm, but would actually advance, the welfare and rights of women.

Our data suggests that most women who have had abortions aren't really bothered by the idea of ending abortion.

Most would agree that in a perfect world abortion would not exist. What offends them is that pro-lifers appear to be insensitive to the obstacles women face.

What they really want is for women to receive real support, just solutions and viable options before, during and after pregnancy, and for this concern to be extended to those who have given birth or had a miscarriage or abortion.

Women who have had abortions, and all compassionate Americans, want their political leaders to address these injustices and concerns at the appropriate level. They would prefer to support a candidate who wants to:

(a) protect the right of women not to be pressured, coerced or forced into unwanted and dangerous abortions;

(b) protect the rights of women facing pregnancy-related discrimination or abuse; unwanted, coerced and forced abortions; and physical and psychological problems after abortion;

(c) ensure that women be given full information about their rights, the risks of abortion, fetal development and alternatives to abortion in an atmosphere that would allow them to thoroughly consider this information;

(d) ensure that women receive authentic solutions and support that would allow them to continue the pregnancy, even when it is unwanted by those around them;

(d) promote healing for victims of coerced, unwanted or traumatic abortions and for those suffering physical and psychological problems after abortion.

Feminists for Life has captured these sentiments, reflected in the polls, in their slogan, "Women Deserve Better."TM This slogan reflects what most women truly believe. Women deserve full disclosure and support from health professionals and leaders. Women deserve full support from their partners, family and community. Instead, many

are being coerced into abortion—the “easy way out” for everyone but the woman and her unborn child.

New evidence makes it increasingly clear that abortion was never about “choice.” Women really do deserve better.

BEING PRO-WOMAN AND PRO-LIFE

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Properly Framing the Issue

The abortion debate has typically been framed as a conflict between the rights of women and the rights of unborn children. This misleading conflict needlessly polarizes public opinion.

It both inaccurate and detrimental to accept this definition of the debate, which pits women against their unborn children and will lead at least some to side with the woman whose needs and rights they see.¹¹ Pro-lifers should refuse this definition and remind people that most abortions are unwanted or coerced and that abortion harms *both* women and their unborn children.

A growing body of evidence verifies that not only does abortion end the life of a developing human being, but also that: (a) women do not want abortions, (b) most abortions are unwanted or coerced, (c) abortion does not help women or serve their needs or desires, (d) abortion is a form of injustice to women as well as to their unborn children, and (e) abortion harms everyone involved.⁵

They should also remind people that efforts to protect the right to life and efforts to address the needs, desires and rights of women go hand in hand. They are not mutually exclusive, as is shown by the work of the many pregnancy centers and other organizations that help pregnant women in need.

We are making progress toward addressing these needs, but further efforts are needed to protect the rights of women , especially those facing unwanted, coerced or forced abortions. In addition, where appropriate, we need governmental policies that address the needs and rights of women personally and on a societal level. Our poll shows that most Americans

support making post-abortion counseling available to women and conducting research on abortion's impact on women.

To properly frame the political debate, we must insist that the true nature of the abortion conflict is between the rights and well-being of mothers and their unborn children, versus the profits of the abortion industry and the agenda of radical population controllers which are exploiting women to achieve their goals. One of our core messages must be:

Abortion is destructive not only to unborn children, but to the women, men and families involved. It's time to end the injustice, offer real choices and promote healing.

Reframing the abortion debate as an injustice to both unborn children and their mothers is not difficult. But it does require pro-life politicians to become familiar with new facts, messages, talking points, position statements, and pro-woman/pro-life legislative proposals.³

Keep this pro-woman/pro-life framework in mind at all times. You are on the side of *both* women and their unborn children. You are protecting the rights of both from the injustice and exploitation of abortion—which is dangerous, often unwanted, and usually performed for the benefit and profit of others.

This general theme must come through in everything you say and do. *As pro-lifers, we must be aggressively pro-woman as well.*

So how do we convey this to the public, especially in the face of efforts by abortion advocates or the media to portray pro-lifers as not caring about women? The following will help you to tap into the underlying public sentiments discussed in the previous section in order to convey your pro-woman/pro-life message.

A Two-Phased Campaign

In general, people can only absorb a few ideas at a time. So we have divided the most important themes for a pro-woman/pro-life campaign

into two phases. Each phase has an emotional, factual, and public policy element.

In the early phase of raising public awareness about these issues, you may want to stick just to the themes described in Phase One. Repetition of these important themes is extremely important. This will also help you to master the ability to convey these messages in a moving and compassionate way.

As the public becomes familiar with the messages from the first phase, either because of your efforts or that of other political leaders or pro-woman/pro-life groups, you can move on to the second phase. During the second phase, you should still mention and reinforce the messages from the first phase, at least in some way, but you may not need to elaborate on them to the same degree.

Please note that the messages described for each phase describe the theme of that phase, not necessarily the actual wording. Additional, and sometimes better, wordings are presented in the last section of this booklet, which also addresses other themes that can be developed as this issue matures in the public mind.

Phase One

For Women, Against Abuse,
For Responsible Doctors

These are the most important, foundational messages of all. It is especially important for you to become thoroughly imbued with the Phase One messages, as you will find occasions to come back to them time and again.

Emotional Connection

"Most women who undergo abortions do so because of pressure, abandonment, lack of support, disinformation and other forms of coercion. Coercion is significant, can come from all sides and in some cases escalates to violence.

Women who have had abortions are more likely to experience trauma, depression, suicidal thoughts, feelings of isolation and grief, substance abuse, anxiety and other problems.

I truly care about helping those who are pressured or coerced into unwanted abortions, those who are deceptively informed about the nature of abortion and the risks and alternatives, and those who are struggling after abortion.”

Factual Context

In a major survey of women who had undergone abortions, 64 percent of American respondents report that they felt pressured by others to abort.² Many abortions are the result of pressure, threats, abandonment, lack of support, emotional blackmail and other forms of coercion.⁵ Coercion can take many forms and even be systemic, with abortion counselors, medical personnel, school counselors, mental health professionals and other trusted experts offering misleading or incomplete information or presenting false information as fact.

Coercion can also lead to violence. Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women,⁶ and there have been many reported cases of women being killed or physically assaulted for refusing to abort.¹² Coercion and forced abortions are a form of domestic violence, yet abortion clinics are failing to protect the rights of women from the injustice of being pressured or forced into unwanted abortions.

Disinformation about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and viable alternatives to abortion, especially when presented by those in positions of authority (such as an abortion counselor or health professional) is also coercive.¹³ Abortion clinics often fail to present women with adequate information or present false information as fact. The survey of women who had abortions, mentioned earlier, found that:

- more than 50 percent said they felt rushed or uncertain before the abortion
- 79 percent said they were not counseled on alternatives to abortion
- 84 percent said they did not receive adequate counseling before abortion

- 67 percent said they received no counseling before abortion.²

Public Policy Position

No woman should ever be pressured, coerced or forced to undergo an unwanted abortion. The abortion industry should be required to put the welfare of women ahead of their profit margins. If they fail to screen for coercion, or to protect the rights of women who are being coerced into unwanted abortions, they should be held liable for the wrongful deaths of these women’s children and the subsequent trauma experienced by the mothers.

Phase Two

Abortion Hurts Women, Women Deserve Better, Let’s Create a Healing Environment

Emotional Connection

“Whenever a woman becomes pregnant, she deserves real support and viable options, not abandonment, lack of support, or coercion. Many women have reported that they would have continued their pregnancies to term under better circumstances or with more support from those around them. Others were pressured, coerced or even forced into unwanted abortions.

“Millions of women and their families suffer physically and emotionally from abortion. Abortion is an injustice to women and often leaves them physically and emotionally scarred. It is a sign that we have failed to give women the support they deserve and need to have their children. Women—and their unborn children—deserve better than abortion.”

Factual Context

Millions of women have been hurt by coercion and other forms of abuse and by the trauma of abortion: physically, psychologically, and socially. Many have been unjustly pressured, coerced or forced into unwanted abortions, or endured mistreatment before, during and after abortion.

Abortion is linked with higher rates of depression, suicide, substance abuse, mental

health disorders, anxiety disorders, sleep disorders and other problems.¹⁴ In addition to the risks of the procedure itself, physical effects include risks to future fertility and an increase in subsequent premature births, which are the leading cause of death and disability among newborns.¹⁵ Death rates—including suicide rates—are higher among women who have had abortions compared to those who gave birth.¹⁸

Unresolved issues related to abortion can also hurt marriages and families¹⁶ and negatively impact parenting skills for both women and men involved in abortion.¹⁷ Many men want to have the child but often have no say in the abortion decision, are not told of it or are also misled by false and misleading information. They also grieve the loss of a child, as do other family members. Many have watched a sister, daughter, mother, partner or friend suffer as a result of coercion, unethical medical practices, or post-abortion trauma or grief.

Public Policy Position

We need to create a more healing environment for those who are suffering from the aftermath of abortion and the situations leading up to it. Where appropriate, we need to support more post-abortion counseling programs and more research to better understand abortion complications and treatments. We need to be mindful of the abuse, injustice, coercion and other obstacles that often lead to abortion and to work to end these injustices and offer real support and meaningful options. Women deserve better than abortion.

What Post-Aborted Women Hear In What You *Don't* Say

Everyone knows abortion is an emotionally charged, divisive issue. This is precisely why most political candidates prefer to avoid it.

Traditional political thinking says no matter what position a candidate takes on abortion, it will alienate as many voters as it attracts. As a result, pro-life candidates are often advised to

minimize their public statements on this issue unless they are in a strongly pro-life district.

This traditional view, however, fails to address the underlying questions that may be in people's minds, such as, "Do you understand the realities that women often face and the needs and concerns of those facing unexpected pregnancies? Do you have an attitude of judgement and condemnation toward those who've had abortions, even those who didn't feel they had a choice? What are you doing to help women?"

As discussed earlier, most women who have had abortions see it as an unwanted, traumatic and/or damaging experience. In general, they dislike the radical pro-abortion agenda. They have no interest in packing the courts with pro-abortion judges. They don't support expanding government funding of abortion. They do support informed consent laws and policies that would help provide alternatives to abortion.

Most women who have had abortions seem to be "pro-choice" by default, not ideology. Many, especially those who were coerced or forced into unwanted abortions, felt that they had no other options. They may know that many women—even themselves—experience psychological and emotional difficulties after abortion. They often feel that discussion of abortion does not acknowledge these realities and only adds to their pain.

If they feel that pro-life candidates fail to acknowledge the problems that often lead to abortions, or dismiss women who have had abortions as callous and selfish, they will not clearly hear or understand the pro-life message.

A Political Case Study

The Compassionate Conservative Who Wavered

A prime example of this dynamic occurred in the presidential race between George W. Bush and Al Gore. Early in the campaign, the polls

showed Bush had high marks from women who were attracted to his “compassionate conservative” message.

To pull women into his corner, Gore began hitting the “I’m pro-choice” message hard. Bush, probably hoping to avoid losing women’s support, followed the traditional advice given to pro-life candidates: Say as little as possible about the abortion issue. Reassure pro-lifers that you are pro-life, then shut up.

Although Bush ultimately prevailed in the election, his failure to directly address the concerns of post-abortive women meant that the underlying implications of Gore’s message—that Gore was more “pro-woman” than Bush—went unchallenged. The more women heard Gore acknowledging their concerns (since saying “I’m pro-choice” implied that he cared about the realities that lead many women to abortion), without any response from Bush, the more they began to fear that Bush was not truly a “compassionate” conservative. Bush’s silence left them to conclude that he really was the judgemental, condemning, out-of-touch-with-reality conservative that Gore and many in the media were portraying him to be.

Imagine you are a woman who, as a teen, was forced into an unwanted abortion by your parents. Or a woman who was threatened with the loss of relationships and support, including the financial support you needed to have your baby, when you became pregnant. Or a woman who was in an abusive relationship and feared violence or even murder if you didn’t abort.

Maybe you are a woman who is still struggling with the trauma of your experience and grieving the loss of your child. Perhaps those around you have told you that it was for the best and you should just get on your life. You may be trying to follow this advice even as you feel your pain is being dismissed and ignored, or wondering if there is something wrong with you for feeling this way.

It would be natural, then to feel misjudged

or even resentful when you hear a pro-life candidate talk about the moral evil of abortion, but fail to address the fact that so many women, like you, actually wanted to have their babies and would have done so had you seen another way out. On the other hand, from that perspective, how would you have reacted if Bush had said the following during the presidential debates?

I’m pro-life. I’m also pro-woman. And I’m deeply concerned about women who are being hurt or even killed by unnecessary, unwanted, and dangerous abortions.

Surveys show that many women feel pressured into abortion. Many abortions are the result of pressure, coercion, misinformation, withholding essential personal or financial support, lack of viable alternatives, emotional blackmail, threats and even violence. Women and girls are often pushed into traumatic and unwanted experiences and then left to sort out the aftermath alone. That’s not “choice.”

Rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse and other problems increase after abortion. Women are not told of the physical risks of abortion, including problems that can affect future fertility. Although abortion is sold as a safe and simple procedure, the women I know who have had abortions have told me that abortion is a safety hazard, not a safety net.

I share the anger of women who were pushed or even forced into unwanted abortions by their boyfriends, husbands, parents, school counselors, employers or others around them. I know that in most cases these other people did not understand the lifelong impact abortion can have on women. But it is still gravely wrong to tell a woman who needs support from her loved ones that she should or must have an abortion instead.

I want to protect the rights of women so that no woman or girl is ever faced with having an unwanted abortion because of her circumstances or the actions of those around her. This means protecting the rights of women and girls so that they will not be pressured or coerced into unwanted abortions, or physically forced to abort. This includes protecting the rights of those who are victims of domestic violence or pregnancy-

related discrimination or abuse.

We especially need to protect young girls who are facing violence or sexual abuse. Abortion is often used by sexual predators to cover up abuse when a pregnancy occurs. Tragically, abortion clinics often fail to ask questions or report suspected abuse, so that these girls are subjected to often traumatic abortions and then returned to the abusive situation.

We also need to support additional research on the detrimental effects of abortion and counseling programs for women who are struggling with unresolved grief, trauma or other problems after abortion. Women need and deserve the support of their families, friends, churches and communities to heal from this experience.

We also need to be less quick to assume that abortion is a cure-all. My opponent wants the government to be involved in funding more abortions. That's not "pro-choice." Instead, that's promoting an unsafe, unfair and often unwanted procedure in lieu of offering viable options and real support.

I believe women deserve better. And I'm going to work to protect their rights so that no woman or girl will be pressured, coerced or forced to have an abortion. And for those who have already had abortions and need post-abortion counseling and support, I'll work for policies that allow for this.

These hurting women are our friends, daughters, mothers and wives. They deserve our love and support. We need to work harder to protect their rights and help those who are struggling find healing after abortion.

If you were like one of the women described above, this response have at least helped to alleviate your perception that this "compassionate conservative" was indifferent to the concerns women face or poised to judge, condemn or dismiss those who have had abortions.

The women who have had abortions and the counselors who have read and helped prepare this booklet all agree that if Bush had consistently addressed abortion in such a way, the term "hanging chad" would still be an obscurity.

We believe that it's vital to address women's legitimate concerns for their own sake—not as a means to an end. But we also believe that doing so would have also resulted in a shift in votes of at least 10 percentage points among the 30 million post-abortive American women, and probably much more. In addition, such a pro-woman emphasis would also have a positive effect on the middle majority of Americans, who are deeply ambivalent about the abortion issue but mostly concerned about helping women. They too would welcome proposals to reduce or eliminate abortion, as long as it can be done in a way that helps women.¹¹

POWERFUL POSITIONS & TALKING POINTS

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America's Coerced Abortion Crisis

As discussed in the section on “Background Polls and Psychology,” American women are far more concerned with stopping domestic violence than they are with promoting abortion. A survey conducted by the pro-choice Center for the Advancement of Women found that women rated “preventing domestic violence” as the women’s issue of highest concern to them.¹

Domestic violence can include pregnancy-related violence as well as cases in which violence was used to compel or force an abortion. The violence may come from a woman’s partner, or, in the case of teens, a sexual predator or other adult.

While many men do want to their partner to carry to term and are supportive and involved in the child’s life, research has shown that when an abusive partner is unwilling to accept or tolerate the birth of a child, the woman may become the victim of verbal or physical abuse aimed at compelling her to undergo an abortion.¹⁹ According to one study of battered women, the target of battery during their pregnancies shifted from their face and breasts to their abdomens,²⁰ which suggests hostility toward the women’s fertility.

Attacked or Killed For Refusing to Abort

Some women are literally being killed for refusing to abort. The leading cause of death during pregnancy is homicide.⁶ In one study of violent deaths among pregnant women, three out of every four were killed during their first 20 weeks of pregnancy.²¹

The following is just a partial list of some cases in which women were attacked or killed for refusing to abort. As you can imagine, for each woman killed, many more have been subjected to verbal or physical abuse in order to compel them to abort.

- In Charlotte, NC, 24-year-old Cherica Adams died a month after being shot four times in the abdomen in Nov. 1999. Her eight-month-old unborn son survived. Rae Carruth, a former NFL player, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for plotting Cherica's death. Police said he didn't want to pay child support.
- 16-year-old Matthew Wiedeman pleaded guilty to killing Stephanie Burnett in Athens, GA in April 2002 and was sentenced to life in prison. Police said Wiedeman believed Stephanie was pregnant and he didn't want her to have the baby. An autopsy showed she was not pregnant.
- In Greensboro, NC, 21-year-old Shawn Kristopher Holliman was sentenced to life in prison for killing 17-year-old Tanika Fox by shooting her in the head in Dec. 1999. Police said he killed Tanika because she refused to have an abortion and he didn't want to pay child support.
- In Toledo, OH, Sonya Hayes was shot in the abdomen, killing her and her unborn son. Her boyfriend, Terrance Davis, was sentenced to life in prison for her murder. At his trial, Sonya's mother testified that Davis had wanted Sonya to have an abortion.
- A pipe bomb killed Deana Mitts, who was seven months pregnant, and her seven-year-old daughter in their Pittsburgh townhome on New Year's Day 1999. Deana's ex-boyfriend, Joseph Mienerd, was sentenced to life in prison for the bombing. Mienerd had threatened to kill Deana when she refused to have an abortion.¹²

Even parents may resort to violence in order to force an abortion their daughter doesn't

want. In 2001, Glenda Dowis of Florida pleaded guilty to forcing her 15-year-old daughter to go to an abortion clinic at gunpoint. The teen was fortunate that the clinic workers called police after she wrote on a form that her mother was forcing her to have the abortion. Her mother allegedly told a staff member that if her daughter did not have the abortion, "I'm going to blow her brains out."²²

(Tragically, as discussed further below, in many cases abortion clinic workers have not only facilitated forced abortions but returned girls to abusive situations without reporting possible abuse to authorities.)

More recently, the parents of a Maine teen pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault charges after they allegedly tied up and gagged their daughter, put her in the trunk of their car and drove her across state lines for an abortion. Fortunately, the teen was able to escape from her parents and call police on her cell phone.²³

Domestic violence is one of the causes of unwanted abortions. Looking for ways to help and support victims of domestic violence should be a key focus for pro-lifers who are concerned about helping women. Abused women will recognize this link, and other women will recognize that this link is credible.

Remind Americans About Widespread Unwanted Abortions

Lack of support, pressure or demands for abortion, threats, violence, disinformation from clinic counselors or others in positions of authority, and lack of viable options are part of a spectrum of causes by which women are pressured or coerced into unwanted abortions.

The single biggest factor leading to unwanted abortions is lack of support from others. Indeed, in surveys of women in post-abortion support groups, more than 80 percent said they would have carried to term under better circumstances or with more support from those around them.³

Some abortion advocates will insist that women are not being forced to abort; they are just exercising their free choice. But a closer look at the evidence shows that *women are undergoing abortions they don't really want because of a lack of free choice*. For most women, abortion is not something they really want or would choose for themselves if they felt free to do so. Their abortions are unwanted.

Women deserve the right to say “no” to an unwanted abortion and to receive authentic support and viable options to help them continue a pregnancy. Stopping unwanted, unnecessary and dangerous abortions should be a key goal for the pro-life movement and for all compassionate political leaders, and one that cannot and must not be dismissed. As noted previously, even while this important issue has been just below the radio screen, the public is already inclined to believe that coerced abortions are a common occurrence.⁴

Further, since unwanted abortions are so common, expressing your understanding that many, if not most, abortions are unwanted will resonate with women who themselves have suffered unwanted or coerced abortions. Many of these women want leaders who will recognize this injustice and will work to spare other women what they have been through. While there are women who say they freely consented to abortion, many of them still see it as a negative and unwanted experience. Few—if any—women would want to go through such a painful, traumatic and life-altering experience if they knew there were other options available to them and they felt able to access them.

The fact that most abortions are unwanted is frequently overlooked by both sides in the abortion debate.

It should not be, especially given the fact that many in the public already realize that abortion is generally unwanted. By using the phrase “unwanted abortions” often to remind Americans of this unjust reality, you will help others to recognize the truth, acknowledge

the injustice and find better answers for women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies.

Abortions in Sexual Assault Cases Are Often Unwanted

One of the most frequent arguments in support of abortion is that abortion should be available for women and girls who become pregnant through rape or incest. But compassionate leaders should ask women who've been there. Contrary to conventional wisdom, a closer look at the “hard cases” shows that:

- Research shows that most abortions of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest are unwanted or the result of pressure from others.²⁴
- Most women also reported that abortion was not a helpful solution for them, and only added to their trauma.²⁴
- Abortion serves to protect the abusers, not those being abused. By failing to report suspected abuse to authorities, abortion businesses often facilitate sexual abuse and forced abortion.²⁵

A common example is when an abortion clinic performs an abortion on the teenage victim of an adult sexual predator. The predator insists on the abortion, accompanies the girl to the clinic, and pays for the procedure. The abortionist not only complies (often violating state laws requiring that the parents of a minor be informed before she has an abortion), but also doesn't report the statutory rape to authorities. So the abuse continues and the predator may even move on to other victims.

One such case occurred in 2002, when an Arizona judge found a Planned Parenthood affiliate was negligent for failing to report performing an abortion on a 13-year-old girl who was being abused by her 23-year-old foster brother. A lawsuit alleged that the girl was subjected to repeated abuse and a second abortion because Planned Parenthood failed

to notify authorities of possible abuse when she had her first abortion.²⁶ Similar cases have been reported in other states as well.¹²

Incest victims are especially likely to be forced into unwanted abortions.⁴ For example, Denise was repeatedly raped by her father. When she became ill, doctors discovered she was pregnant. To cover his own crime, Denise's father accused his daughter of being promiscuous and demanded an abortion. When Denise refused for moral reasons, the attending emergency room physician refused to do the procedure. The father demanded that an abortionist be called. Denise wrote:

Within one hour, this man arrived at the hospital, talked with my parents and decided to do the abortion, without speaking to me. I refused and tried to get off the examining table. He then asked three nurses to hold me while he strapped me to the bed. . . [and] prepared to kill my baby. I continued to scream that I didn't want an abortion. He told me, "Shut up and quit that yelling!" Eventually, I was placed under general anesthesia and my child was brutally killed.

I was told that an abortion would solve my problem, when it was never really the problem in the first place.

I was told, "Your parents know what's best," when they obviously were only concerned about their own reputations.

I was told, "You made the right decision," when I was never given a choice. More important, where was my baby's choice?

I grieve every day for my daughter. I have struggled to forget the abuse and the abortion. I can do neither. All I think of is, "I should have done more, fought more, struggled more for the life of my child."²⁷

As Denise noted, abortion did nothing to resolve the trauma of being abused or remove her from the abusive situation. If we don't defend young girls like Denise, then who will?

Always Come Back to the Issue of Unwanted and Coerced Abortions

In the abortion debate, abortion advocates and

lobbyists tend to retreat to the hard cases of rape and incest. (This is especially ironic since abortions for incest victims are almost always the result of coercion and return the incest victim to her abuser.)

While those who become pregnant through rape and incest certainly need and deserve our support, most survivors themselves say that abortion only intensifies their pain. In the largest survey ever done of women who had experienced a pregnancy resulting from sexual assault:

- Nearly 80 percent of those who had abortions reported that abortion was not a good solution.
- Many victims who did have abortions reported that abortion only worsened the trauma they had already experienced, while none of those who carried to term said they regretted having done so.
- In many cases, especially where the pregnancy resulted from incest or the victim was very young, it was someone else, not the victim herself, who made the decision for the abortion.²⁴

How Abortion Hurts, Not Helps, Women

In fact, the widespread availability of abortion has not only allowed sexual predators to cover up their crimes, but it has also led to the widespread abuse of women's rights through unwanted abortions.

This point cannot be made often enough. If we ever hope to protect the rights of women and their unborn children, it needs to begin with protecting the rights of women who are faced with coerced and unwanted abortions.

Give an example. Then insist:

Whether the victims of abuse and coerced abortions number in the tens of thousands or tens of millions, it's clear the abortion industry has failed them. We have an obligation to end the injustice of unwanted, coerced,

unnecessary and dangerous abortions.

I don't understand how anyone can say easy access to abortion is more important than protecting women from being pushed, coerced or forced into unwanted abortions. The rights of women matter more than the abortion industry's profits.

Confidently Affirm That Abortion is Harmful to Women

Don't hesitate to assert that abortion harms women. As shown in the *Background Polls and Psychology* section, voters are already inclined to believe abortion carries substantial risks and few, if any, benefits.

Indeed, the best available research published in peer-reviewed medical journals shows that abortion is associated with elevated risks of death, depression, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, anxiety, sleep disorders, psychiatric hospitalization, and other mental health disorders. Studies looking specifically at women with unintended pregnancies have also found that women who have abortions are more likely than delivering women to subsequently experience depression, anxiety and substance abuse problems. Even among teens, girls who aborted an unplanned pregnancy had poorer mental health outcomes than did girls who carried an unwanted pregnancy to term.¹⁴

One of the most recent published studies, carried out in New Zealand, documented mental health disturbances among a group of young women who had been tracked since childhood. The researchers found that women who had undergone abortions had significantly higher rates of major depression, substance abuse, anxiety and suicidal behavior. They also found that these problems were not the result of prior mental health issues.²⁹

In fact, there is not a single known statistically validated study demonstrating that abortion generally makes women's lives better. The only claims of benefits are anecdotal, and even in these cases, the women often say that

while they don't regret having chosen abortion, they have struggled with it—or at best, have not had any major problems *yet*.

What About Women Who Seem Fine After Abortion?

Some women do seem to go through an abortion with no emotional or physical problems. We are not trying to claim that *all* women suffer physical or psychological harm from abortion—only that some do, and that abortion increases the risk that a woman will experience certain problems.

Our focus should be on protecting the rights of women who face abuse or who are being pressured or coerced into unwanted abortions, and those who have been (or are at risk of) being hurt by abortion.

Dealing With the Claim That Abortion Clinics Are Doing A Good Job

You will probably eventually hear the claim that Planned Parenthood, or your local abortion clinic, is doing a good job of protecting women from coerced abortions—something along the lines of: “Our counselors watch for signs of abuse. We only do an abortion when a woman freely gives her consent.”

Don't get distracted by efforts to disprove this claim. Instead, invite them to help you in your efforts to make sure that no woman, anywhere, ends up undergoing a coerced or unwanted abortion. Since they concede the importance of stopping coerced abortions, yet they are still happening, ask them to support legislation that would require all clinics to screen for coercion.

A Legislative Agenda

Part of our pro-woman/pro-life position is supporting legislative proposals that protect the rights of women. (To see our model bill in detail, visit www.stopforcedabortions.com.)

This legislation would:

- Protect the rights of women who are being coerced into unwanted abortions;
- Guarantee women's right to be fully informed about the risks of and alternatives to abortion;
- Require physicians to properly screen patients for coercion and for statistically validated risk factors that would place them at higher risk of psychological complications after abortion;
- Expand the rights of injured patients to recover fair compensation for physical or psychological harm resulting from abortion;
- Support expanded access to post-abortion counseling programs; and
- Support research on the physical and psychological impact of abortion and to better identify which women are at greatest risk of post-abortion problems.

These proposals will help protect the rights of women who are at risk of undergoing unwanted, unnecessary and unsafe abortions. Certainly everyone of good will can agree that these proposals will truly help women.

A Sample of Questions and Answers

MEDIA: *What is your position on abortion?*

CANDIDATE: I believe we absolutely must defend the rights of women and stop the common practice of unwanted, coerced and unsafe abortions, which are injuring hundreds of thousands of women every year.

We don't hear about it in the media, but America is faced with a terrible epidemic of *unwanted* abortions—cases where women and girls would rather have their babies but are instead pressured, coerced or even forced into unwanted abortions.

- I oppose allowing abortion to be used by

those who disrespect, discriminate against or abuse pregnant women.

- I oppose allowing a partner, parent or those in positions of authority to pressure, coerce or force a woman or girl into an unwanted abortion without regard for her own needs or desires.
- I oppose giving women inadequate and misleading information about abortion, which is another form of coercion.
- I oppose making women suffer the pain and aftereffects of abortion just so others won't be inconvenienced.

MEDIA: *Would you support legislation that would limit women's right to an abortion?*

CANDIDATE: I support laws that would protect women and girls from being pressured into unwanted abortions.

I support laws that would hold abortion clinics accountable for failing to protect the rights of women and girls who are being pressured, coerced or forced into unwanted abortions.

I support laws that would hold abortion businesses accountable for making sure that women are given truthful and accurate information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, and the resources and support available to them.

If my opponent truly cares more about protecting women's interests than about protecting the abortion industry's interests, I hope he/she will promise to work with me in seeking legislation to protect the rights of women who are facing unwanted, coerced and unsafe abortions.

MEDIA: *Aren't your proposals really intended to make it more difficult for women to get abortions?*

CANDIDATE: My proposals would simply codify the high professional standards that the Supreme Court itself has already described

in *Roe v. Wade* and the other abortion cases.

It is the obligation of the physician to ensure that a patient is not being coerced, forced or deceptively informed and that those making the decision are fully informed of the risks and available alternatives. Abortion businesses should have a legal responsibility to protect their patients from coerced, unwanted, unnecessary, or dangerous abortions.

MEDIA: *How would you propose to heal the divisions in our country over abortion?*

CANDIDATE: First, we need to protect the rights of women who are being pressured to abort or who are facing unwanted, coerced or forced abortions. Women deserve accurate information, meaningful support and better alternatives. We need to acknowledge the fact that many American women face pregnancy- and abortion-related discrimination, injustice and abuse. We need to acknowledge those who have suffered trauma or other problems as a result of abortion—women, men and families—and the need for resources to help facilitate healing.

Second, I think all people of good will can agree that we need to lean more about the pervasiveness of unwanted abortions in America and the serious physical and psychological risks of abortion. In 1989, then Surgeon General C. Everett Koop reported that there had not yet been adequate research on the aftereffects of abortion. He recommended a \$100 million research project to study the effects of abortion.

What was the response from Congress? They ignored the Surgeon General's recommendation. Why? Abortion advocates argued against doing more research because they were afraid that more proof of abortion's risks would further increase abortionists' liability for the damages women suffer.

At least one pro-choice researcher has pointed out that it is scandalous that such a commonly performed procedure is being car-

ried out with little adequate research into the risks and the long-term effects. Women should not be treated as guinea pigs or coerced into a traumatic and harmful abortion instead of being given the authentic support and alternatives that they need and deserve.

MEDIA: *I don't understand what you mean by "unwanted" abortions. If a woman chooses to have an abortion, that's what she wants.*

CANDIDATE: According to one survey of American women who had abortions, 64 percent reported that they felt pressured by others to abort. More than 80 percent said they did not receive adequate counseling and more than 50 percent said they felt rushed or uncertain about the decision. Nearly 80 percent said they were not informed of available alternatives.² Another survey found that 95 percent of women want to be fully informed of the risks when having an elective procedure.⁹ By any reasonable measure, these numbers do not add up to "choice!"

Further, there are many stories of women and girls being threatened, badgered, pressured and literally dragged to abortion clinics by their partner or parents—like the teenage girl in Florida who was taken at gunpoint to an abortion clinic by her mother.²² Homicide is the leading killer of pregnant women, and many news reports on these cases have indicated that the victims were killed for refusing to undergo an abortion.⁶ This hardly presents a picture of women who have freely "chosen" abortion or are decided about having an abortion.

[In cases where an opponent supports international population control programs] Another example is found in China's national "one child" policy, where many couples are brutally forced to undergo unwanted abortions. This points to another important difference between my opponent and myself. My opponent supports government funding for agencies that engage in or support these types of programs for the purpose of suppressing population growth in developing countries.

My opponent is closing his/her eyes to minority women in developing countries who are being forced into unwanted abortions. He/she is even willing to pay for it. Women deserve better than this.

MEDIA: *What are your views on abortion in the case of rape or incest?*

CANDIDATE: I support legislation that protects women's interests. Women and girls who become pregnant as a result of rape or incest deserve compassion, meaningful support and the best medical care and counseling available. It doesn't benefit them to be rushed into abortion regardless of their will or the risks to their health and well-being. That would only risk victimizing them a second time.

I've read testimonies of women who have had pregnancies resulting from sexual assault and either continued the pregnancies or had abortions, and what these women are saying is quite different from what most people assume.²⁴ Most who had abortions report that they often did not freely choose to abort and that abortion was not a good solution.⁵ In fact, abortion can further traumatize an already hurting victim.

Further, abortion is often used by sexual predators to cover up their crimes. Girls who become pregnant may be given an abortion and then returned to the abusive situation.^{25, 26}

Before the government gets involved in the business of funding abortions for rape victims, I would like to invite women who have experienced a pregnancy resulting from sexual assault or abuse to testify about their experiences. The government shouldn't rush in and get involved on the basis of preconceptions or political agendas. Let's find out from the women who have really been there what is helpful and what is harmful.

MEDIA: *Some abortion doctors say they won't be able to afford to do abortions if they face the kind of liability you're talking about. If*

women can't get abortions from doctors, won't that lead us back to the dangers of back-alley abortions?

CANDIDATE: Abortionists will only stop doing abortions if it turns out that abortion is far more dangerous than they have been telling us. Proper liability will lead to proper care and screening. This will help protect women.

One of the main reasons the Supreme Court legalized abortion was so that doctors could protect women from having ill-informed, dangerous abortions—but the research shows this is still happening under legalized abortion. It is ridiculous to suggest that in order to prevent dangerous illegal abortions, we should allow dangerous legal abortions.

Further, legalization has made it easier for others to pressure or coerce women and girls into unwanted abortions. If doctors simply do abortions on demand—without regard to whether or not patients are coerced or fully informed or whether the risks outweigh the benefits—this is no different than when the practice was illegal. It's actually worse, because now people are being misled by abortion advocates, medical professionals and other leaders into believing that legalized abortion is safer than it really is.

STAYING INFORMED

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The Elliot Institute is an internationally recognized leader in the field of post-abortion education, research, and outreach. We need *your help* to protect women and families from the ravages of abortion.

Even more importantly, we want to *help you* become a better advocate for women.

The following resources provide more information on the information presented in this booklet.

Get Our E-Newsletter

Get the latest news, information and resources on these issues with our free e-newsletter at: www.afterabortion.org/subscribe.html

Find More Information Online

For research and political commentary:
www.afterabortion.info

For Information and education resources on coerced and unwanted abortions:
www.theunchoice.com

For model legislation:
www.stopforcedabortions.com

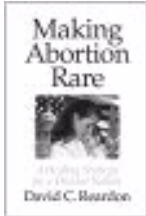
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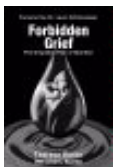


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