

Some Women Silent No More

Thirty five years ago this month the U.S Supreme Court made it legally permissible for American women to terminate the life of their unborn children at any gestational age for any reason.

The companion Roe and Doe decisions of 1973 have changed America, but is America better for it?

A group of women who are part of a huge and ever-growing national movement, SILENT NO MORE, join the Washington, D.C. March For Life every year carrying signs which confess, "I regret my abortion." They share solidarity with dozens of other groups of women who have experienced the pain of realizing too late that their abortions ended up being a horrible, irrevocable choice.

If we are average American adults, we all have done some things we regret later. Some of us have played around with drugs or alcohol and had our health, relationships, college studies, or job security jeopardized by it. We may, right now be regretting and paying dearly for our ongoing addiction to nicotine in our cigarettes.

Some of us have made bad career choices. Others jumped into marriage or non-marital intimate unions prematurely, and then learned unsettling things that ended up making us unhappy or even putting us in danger.

Regrets about big and small matters alike are plentiful in the fast paced American lifestyle we seem to crave and treasure.

When we discover we've made a mistake, we eventually reach a point where we have to make a decision about what to do about it.

With abortion, it's different. You can't undo an abortion. Abortion is forever.

People can realize their job, or the house they bought or the town they live in is making them unhappy, and begin looking elsewhere.

If their career choice was a poor one they can look into training or schooling for a better path. They can overcome regret with positive action. But carrying out the choice to end the life of your own flesh and blood cannot be revoked once it happens. You can't bring the baby back. It's true you can parent another baby somewhere down the road, but this child will never actually replace the one who was lost.

People with a drinking problem can hit "rock bottom" and decide to dump all the alcohol down the drain or the toilet. They can call someone for help and make a decision to start with a clean slate and move into sobriety. The choice to take control of their lives is theirs to pursue at all times. Even if they fall down they can choose again to get back up.

People with a drug addiction can be discovered and assisted by others and moved into rehabilitation. It's usually difficult but very achievable. Life can become hopeful, healthy and good. They can overcome regret with positive action.

Ex-drug or alcohol addicts, ex-spouses, or ex-lovers, people who once lived in a town they hated, people who left their jobs for something they liked better, none of these are compelled to go to Washington, D.C. every year and march with 100,000 others, carrying signs saying that they regret their choice and publicly sharing their painful stories.

The SILENT NO MORE women are courageously overcoming their regret by taking positive action. They have deep empathy for the vulnerability of women because they were vulnerable themselves. They would not wish their own pain on their worst enemies. They hope to help other women choose well and choose life for their precious unborn babies.

Written by Dawn Slike, President of the Lake County Right To Life, published in "Another Viewpoint" of the *News-Herald*, Willoughby, OH
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