

Letters

Abortion protests

The front page of Sunday's Tribune-Herald had an article about a bill the Texas Legislature is considering that would require all women who are considering having an abortion to receive a sonogram. The Tribune-Herald did a good job covering both sides of the story, but Felicia Goodman, CEO of Planned Parenthood, the local abortion provider, is mistaken.

Goodman stated that it is "insulting" to think that a woman hasn't "thought through" her decision and "doesn't understand" the abortion process.

Most women coming in for abortion counseling are young, scared and confused. They don't know where to turn. If they visit Care Net, they are offered a sonogram, with the heartbeat audible. We understand that a majority of women who agree to have the sonogram make the decision of life for their baby, sometimes by putting the baby up for adoption.

The real insult is denying a confused and scared woman the truth during such a traumatic time.

Steven and Adrienne Cash,
Waco



I was appalled and angered at Sam Alexander's Friday letter about "inappropriate protests."

Alexander's stated problem with the abortion protests was that it raised questions about the protests from his children, and he felt forced to have a discussion with them. The questions posed by his elementary-age children might not have necessarily led to a full discourse on the abortion issue, but it was a perfect opportunity to give them an important civics lesson in our First Amendment rights.

He could tell them simply that is one of the great rights all Americans enjoy: the right of peaceful protests, the right to speak up and let your voice be heard without fear of reprisal.

I was amazed to read he wants to shield his children from the issues of our society. I'm thankful that I grew up in a family that was not afraid of political discourse and was proud of the rights given to them in the Constitution. I grew up watching TV news at an early age and witnessed firsthand the civil rights movements, Vietnam War protests and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. There was no escaping the societal changes going on around us; we were living it.

Some of those news clips showed much more distasteful events than the peaceful protests being held against the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Waco.

After all, isn't he using this very freedom — by writing to the newspaper — that he seems so upset by?

Lynne Gonzales, Lorena



Sam Alexander may need to re-examine his stance on the abortion protesters on Columbus Avenue. Perhaps if concerned parents would stand for life with us, they could simply explain to their children that we live in a country where it's still legal to engage in peaceful protest, that freedom of speech is still intact.

As horrible as the pictures might seem to him, I suspect the real problem is he doesn't know how to justify his lack of concern for a class of people that our government has abandoned. Stop and talk to us next time. Maybe we can show you how we explain it to our children. It's called truth.

David Arnett, West

