

Pro-abortion letters in Waco Trib supporting the GRACE Act

A6 | FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022

LETTERS

Yes, step away

In Thursday's paper, John Pisciotta outlined the history of the Waco City Council intervening to protect the rights and privacy of Waco women and their families. They are to be commended for their efforts in spite of the legal harassment from Pisciotta's group. He then goes on to ask the city council to step away from the "intense battle over abortion." This is exactly what the GRACE Act resolution is designed to do, so thanks for the endorsement.

**Cheryl Foster,
Waco**

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2022 | A7

Just wondering

John Pisciotta's letter on Thursday got me wondering why he's continuing to fight against abortion by going after reactive legislative measures.

I would think that after over 25 years, Pro-Life Waco would have a plan for the post-Roe world, which would include focusing on preventative measures such as lobbying for comprehensive sex education, helping women get access to contraceptives easily to prevent the need for abortions, working with families and organizations to help get the over 30,000 Texas kids in foster care adopted into loving homes, championing free health care for kids until they turn 18, and helping provide families struggling in poverty food and clothing.

But that's just me wondering.

Jake Myers, Robinson

LETTERS 8-7-2022 Support for moms

Over the last few weeks, there have been many letters regarding abortion, reproductive rights and the Grace Act. I understand the statements being made. But what I don't see are any solutions for women. If abortion is illegal, who is (if at all) going to provide prenatal and postnatal care? Where will the support come from for an unwanted pregnancy?

People will want to adopt healthy babies, so the mother's health care is paramount. But what many people don't want is to adopt a child out of foster care. There are over 400,000 children who need to be adopted. They lost their parents for many reasons: abuse, poverty, unwanted, orphaned, drugs etc. At least 20,000 "age out" (become adults) each year.

There are a lot of unwanted children out there. Until the government can take care of these children and guarantee the health of women, it should be the choice of the mother to make a decision about her body. A choice. Her choice.

Kathy Blocker, Riesel

8-7-2022 No establishment

I welcome Warren Fain's letter [Aug. 4] as an opportunity to have civil dialogue about what have become the dividing issue of our time — abortion rights, pro and con. Let's examine the role of religion in public policy debate.

Where reference to excerpts from religious texts are concerned, it is important to recall that one of our most revered constitutional principles is the separation of church and state.

This principle is embodied in the dis-establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution: There shall be no establishment of religion. This clause is critically important because we live in a religiously pluralistic society. Therefore, when discussing public policy, we must be extremely careful how particular, sectarian beliefs and practices are invoked. We don't want to end up like a Taliban theocracy.

That is, we cannot, as Jews, Muslims, Christians or humanists, use what we take to be our own "religious truths" as litmus tests by which all citizens must be legally bound. This is simply unconstitutional.

However, that is not to argue that Quranic or Biblical verses cannot be important inspiration or guidance for shaping one's individual approaches to public policy discourse. The key point is that it is not helpful (and may actually impede civil discourse) to appeal to such excerpts as deciding criteria, when fellow citizens may be religiously inspired or guided by very different religious texts.

Beyond this larger point, there are a number of other problems to be considered here. Not the least of these is the complex matter of interpreting specific lines of religious text within a particular tradition — but this is the subject of another letter.

Thanks again for your earnest and sincere contribution to this dialogue.

Jack A. Hill, Waco