

The Geneva School

**Pro-Life Is Pro-Woman:  
A New Feminism for a Changing World**

A Thesis Presented to  
the Faculty and Administration of The Geneva School  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
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by  
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***Exordium:***

When accepting her 2020 Golden Globe award, Michelle Williams attributed her successful career as an award-winning actress to her abortion, saying, “I wouldn’t have been able to do this without employing a woman’s right to choose. To choose when to have my children and with whom.”<sup>1</sup> In contrast, consider the story of Caitlyn Dixson, a woman who chose life for her child as a highschooler, and now has both a successful career and a beautiful five-year-old boy. When Caitlyn was sixteen, she discovered she was pregnant. Her mother told her a child would interfere with her future and scheduled an abortion appointment at Planned Parenthood. Caitlyn received an ultrasound in which she saw only the top of her son’s head, but that was enough to compel her to walk out of the clinic. The summer before her senior year, she gave birth to a son, Caden, whom she describes as the love and greatest joy of her life. After finishing high school, she attended college full-time and worked nights while raising her son. She graduated with a double major a year early, and she now serves as executive director of Iowa Right to Life, lobbying for legislation that protects babies like her son and women looking for support in desperate situations like herself. Caitlyn speaks of her experience, saying, “I was told by so many people that choosing life for him would be the end of mine, but it was the beginning.”<sup>2</sup> The key difference between these two women is that in Michelle Williams’s

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<sup>1</sup>Abby Gardner, “Michelle Williams Delivers Powerful Golden Globes Speech About a Woman’s Right to Choose,” *Glamour*, Accessed March 26, 2020, <https://www.glamour.com/story/michelle-williams-speech-2020-golden-globes>

<sup>2</sup>“Mom Who Chose Life as a Teen Now Works in the Pro-Life Movement,” Save the Storks, Accessed March 10, 2020, [https://savethestorks.com/2019/02/mom-who-chose-life-as-a-teen-now-works-in-the-pro-life-movement-everything-i-do-is-to-save-babies-like-mine-and-to-help-girls-like-me/?fbclid=IwAR2KdNODwVcb\\_2eDkOELdHuYSIZ4PTF1-j8w44LgbyR\\_YGyRa\\_dr8YFC\\_yg#.XGndD6Ash0o.facebook](https://savethestorks.com/2019/02/mom-who-chose-life-as-a-teen-now-works-in-the-pro-life-movement-everything-i-do-is-to-save-babies-like-mine-and-to-help-girls-like-me/?fbclid=IwAR2KdNODwVcb_2eDkOELdHuYSIZ4PTF1-j8w44LgbyR_YGyRa_dr8YFC_yg#.XGndD6Ash0o.facebook)

story, a woman achieves fame and fortune supposedly because of the termination of her preborn child, while in Caitlyn Dixson's story, a woman finds her strength by realizing she does not have to choose between her dreams and her son, and chooses life while pursuing an education and career she loves.

Here is the question: Which one of these stories is truly more empowering?

***Narratio:***

Planned Parenthood performs one abortion every 97 seconds, 887 per day, and 300,000 per year, reaching a total of 345,672 in 2018. They provide abortions at 160 times the rate at which they refer adoptions.<sup>3</sup> Planned Parenthood accounts for about 40 percent of abortions in the United States;<sup>4</sup> according to Planned Parenthood's research branch, the Guttmacher Institute, abortion led to a total of 862,320 deaths in America in 2017.<sup>5</sup> Since the legalization of abortion on demand in 1973, over 54 million preborn children have been killed.<sup>6</sup>

In today's society, it is clear that the abortion movement is deeply interlaced with the feminist movement. Women's rights advocates during the 2016 presidential race

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<sup>3</sup>"2014-2015 Annual Report," Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Accessed April 9, 2020, [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/2114/5089/0863/2014-2015\\_PPFA\\_Annual\\_Report\\_.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/2114/5089/0863/2014-2015_PPFA_Annual_Report_.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>"2018-2019 Annual Report," Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Accessed April 9, 2020, [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer\\_public/2e/da/2eda3f50-82aa-4ddb-acce-c2854c4ea80b/2018-2019\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/2e/da/2eda3f50-82aa-4ddb-acce-c2854c4ea80b/2018-2019_annual_report.pdf) ; Carole Novielli, "Though U.S. Abortions Have Dropped, Planned Parenthood Now Does 40% of Them," Live Action, Accessed February 3, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/planned-parenthood-almost-40-percent-us- abortions/>

<sup>5</sup>"Fact Sheet," Guttmacher Institute, Accessed February 6, 2020, <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/ induced-abortion-united-states>

<sup>6</sup>"Number of Abortions," US Abortionclock.org, Accessed April 9, 2020, <http://www.numberofabortions.com>

proclaimed “reproductive rights” to be the election’s primary issue for feminists.<sup>7</sup>

However, the shocking history of the connection between feminism and the fight for abortion rights is little known, as the first-wave feminists fought for equal pay, equal opportunities, and equal respect, seeing abortion as oppressive to women and children. Women’s suffrage advocate Elizabeth Cady Stanton said, “When we consider that women have been treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit.”<sup>8</sup> Towards the end of the first wave in 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in America, which would later become Planned Parenthood. Though Sanger herself opposed abortion, and feminism has clear pro-life foundations, the pro-abortion rhetoric of the sexual revolution became deeply integrated into the feminist movement in the second wave. With her best-selling book *The Feminine Mystique*, the second-wave leader Betty Friedan encouraged women to seek jobs outside of the home, drawing attention to the “problem with no name”: the belief that women could only achieve happiness through being a wife and mother, voicing the feelings of millions of women who desired social equality.<sup>9</sup> However, Friedan wanted to protect a woman’s right to be a working wife and mother, saying, “Feminism was not opposed to marriage and motherhood... You want a feminism that includes

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<sup>7</sup>Chris Tagnotti, “The Most Vital Feminist Issues Of The 2016 Election, Because Women's Autonomy Is Seriously Under Threat,” *Bustle*, Accessed February 1, 2020, <https://www.bustle.com/articles/117521-the-most-vital-feminist-issues-of-the-2016-election-because-womens-autonomy-is-seriously-under-threat>

<sup>8</sup>“*The Feminist Case Against Abortion*,” Australian Family Association, Accessed January 22, 2020, <https://family.org.au/the-feminist-case-against-abortion/>

<sup>9</sup>Constance Grady, “The Waves of Feminism, and Why People Keep Fighting Over Them, Explained,” *Vox*, Accessed December 15, 2020, <https://www.vox.com/2018/3/20/16955588/feminism-waves-explained-first-second-third-fourth>

women who have children and want children because that's the majority of women."<sup>10</sup> She was pro-life until two men, Larry Lader and Bernard Nathanson, grossly exaggerated the number of illegal abortions occurring in order to convince her true equality for women could only be achieved through the legalization of abortion.<sup>11</sup> However, Lader and Nathanson's intent was not to protect women, but to provide a way for men to avoid accountability in lieu of the sexual revolution's push for bodily autonomy.<sup>12</sup> Due to Lader and Nathanson's influence, feminism was transformed from a movement of equal rights to the belief that women are best equipped to achieve success if childless.<sup>13</sup>

Today, feminists claim women cannot be equal unless they can choose when and with whom to have children, but they ignore the rights of the preborn woman who cannot choose to defend herself. This betrays what it means to be pro-woman, as it ignores the thousands of women whose lives end before they begin. Unfortunately, abortion laws are becoming more and more radical every year. For example, in New York, last year's "Reproductive Health Act" legalized abortion up to birth, enabling the dismemberment and termination of fetuses who can feel pain.<sup>14</sup> A movement which values the rights and dignity of all women is the only way to stop the steady depletion of the rights of the

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<sup>10</sup>Sue Ellen Browder, *Subverted: How I Helped the Sexual Revolution Hijack the Women's Movement*, 2019 (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2015), 29.

<sup>11</sup>Browder, *Subverted*, 12-13.

<sup>12</sup>Browder, *Subverted*, 49.

<sup>13</sup>Browder, *Subverted*, 51.

<sup>14</sup>Jon Campbell, "Abortion Law in New York: What the Reproductive Health Act Does and Doesn't Do," *Democrat and Chronicle*, Accessed April 15, 2020, <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/politics/albany/2019/02/01/abortion-law-ny-what-reproductive-health-act-does-and-doesnt-do/2743142002/>; Penny Starr, "8 Shocking Facts About New York's Radical Abortion Law," *Breitbart*, Accessed February 4, 2020, <https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/01/24/8-shocking-facts-about-new-yorks-radical-abortion-law/>

preborn. Abortion must stop being sold as a woman's only way to success, and a new feminism must arise which coincides with the pro-life movement, so the two can join together to promote equal rights for all women, in and out of the workplace, and in and out of the womb.

***Partitio:***

Feminism must return to its pro-life roots because true feminism fights for the rights of women from conception to natural death. This is evident in the science of life, the anti-woman legal history of abortion, and the pro-profit nature of Planned Parenthood.

***Confirmatio:***

While original feminists defended the rights of mothers in the workplace, current feminists tell women the only path to success is through aborting the “clump of cells” hijacking their life, though the science of embryology establishes that at fertilization, a new life is created in the form of an embryo who is “distinct, living, and whole,”<sup>15</sup> and thus deserving of rights. This is affirmed by many leading embryologists, and even by Planned Parenthood. *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology* reads, “A zygote is the beginning of a new human being. Human development begins at fertilization... [which] marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual.”<sup>16</sup> Embryologists Ronan O’Rahilly and Fabiola Müller agree: “Although life is a continuous

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<sup>15</sup>Scott Klusendorf, “*The Case for Life*,” Life Training Institute, Accessed December 15, 2019, <https://prolifetraining.com/resources/the-case-for-life/>

<sup>16</sup>Keith L. Moore, T.V.N Persaud, and Mark G Torchia, *The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology*, 11th edition (Edinburgh: Elsevier, 2020).

process, fertilization is a critical landmark because... a new, genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed.”<sup>17</sup> In addition, philosopher David Boonin, author of *A Defense of Abortion*, argues that adults are the same beings as the embryos from which they originate.<sup>18</sup> Even former Planned Parenthood president Dr. Alan Guttmacher recognized this reality, saying, “we of today know that man... starts life as an embryo...”

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Since those on both sides of the abortion debate in the scientific community recognize the humanity of the fetus, the preborn ought to be entitled to equal protections to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness under the Fourteenth Amendment. Half of abortions end the lives of preborn females, causing abortion to be the grossest imaginable violation of women’s rights.

Conception marks the beginning of human life, which makes the methods of abortion all the more dehumanizing. According to former abortion provider Dr. Anthony Levatino, there are four common types of abortions. The first-trimester abortion pill prevents the developing baby from getting the necessary nutrients, thus starving her to death. In a first-trimester Suction Aspiration abortion, a suction thirty times as powerful as a household vacuum rapidly tears the baby from the uterus. In a second-trimester D&C abortion, the abortionist dismembers the thirteen- to twenty-four-week-old’s limbs from

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<sup>17</sup>Ronin O’Rahilly and Fabiolla Müller, *Human Embryology and Teratology* (New York: Wiley-Liss, 2001).

<sup>18</sup>David Boonin, *A Defense of Abortion* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

<sup>19</sup>Mollie Hemingway, “The Washington Post Is Super Confused about Where Babies Come From,” *The Federalist*, Accessed April 14, 2020, <https://thefederalist.com/2014/05/19/the-washington-post-is-super-confused-about-where-babies-come-from/>

her torso. She has all her organs and body parts. Two credentialed doctors, one pro-choice, concluded from their research that fetuses can feel pain even as early as twelve weeks, and certainly by eighteen weeks.<sup>20</sup> In a third-trimester induction abortion, the baby is injected with poison through a long needle, ending her life. Though the baby is old enough to survive outside the womb with proper medical attention at just twenty-one weeks, she is delivered dead.<sup>21</sup>

Abortion not only strips the fundamental right to life from some of the most vulnerable members of the human race, it also damages the mental well-being of the mother as she recovers from having ended the life of her child. Post-Abortion Syndrome, or After-Abortion Grief, is a form of PTSD due to a parent's genetic instinct to "protect their child at all costs"<sup>22</sup>; after an abortion, researchers have reported that most women feel relief, before entering a stage identified by psychiatrists as post-abortion "numbness."<sup>23</sup> "Studies within the first weeks after an abortion have found that between 40 and 60 percent of women questioned reported some negative reactions."<sup>24</sup> This

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<sup>20</sup>"Fact Sheet: Science of Fetal Pain," Charlotte Lozier Institute, Accessed March 1, 2020, <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-science-of-fetal-pain/>

<sup>21</sup>Becky Yeh, "These Are the 4 Most Prevalent Abortion Procedures in America," Live Action, Accessed March 4, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/these-are-the-4-most-prevalent-abortion-procedures-in-america/>; Admin., "What Happens During an In-Clinic Abortion?" Planned Parenthood, Accessed April 9, 2020, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/abortion/in-clinic-abortion-procedures/what-happens-during-an-in-clinic-abortion>

<sup>22</sup>Teri Reiiser and Dr. Paul Reiiser, *A Solitary Sorrow: Finding Healing and Wholeness after Abortion* (New York: Shaw Books, 2000).

<sup>23</sup>According to Dr. Paul and Terri Reiiser about abortion recovery, symptoms include guilt, anxiety, avoiding pregnant women and children, numbness, suicidal behavior, alcohol and drug abuse, and the desire to be pregnant again.

<sup>24</sup>"After Abortion Grief," Students for Life, Accessed February 20, 2020, <http://new.studentsforlife.org/college/after-abortion-grief/>

demonstrates that abortion not only violates the rights of preborn humans but is also harmful to the woman undergoing the procedure.

Secondly, the legal history of abortion in America demonstrates that it is not pro-woman. In the 1973 decision *Roe v. Wade*, the US Supreme Court ruled that the “right of privacy” is “broad enough to encompass” a right to abortion.<sup>25</sup> The Court held that states could issue virtually no regulations for first-trimester abortions, and some regulations for second-trimester abortions, but only for the purpose of protecting the mother’s “health.” In the third-trimester, when the child is viable, the court ruling allowed states to “proscribe” abortion, or make it illegal, contingent on the existence of exceptions to protect the life and “health” of the mother.

The argument of Justice Harry Blackmun, writer of the majority opinion, rested on the precedent that a woman’s right to choose is covered under the right to privacy, which originated in the 1965 case *Griswold v. Connecticut*, where the Supreme Court ruled that certain state restrictions on contraception were unconstitutional as they violated a married couples’ right to privacy. It was found that the right to contraception was protected by several “penumbras,” or shadows within amendments to the Constitution that are necessary for other rights to function.<sup>26</sup> In *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, the right to privacy for the acquisition of contraceptives was extended to unmarried people.<sup>27</sup> In *Roe v. Wade*,

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<sup>25</sup>Bernard Schwartz, *A History of the Supreme Court* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 337-361

<sup>26</sup>Schwartz, *A History of the Supreme Court*, 337-361.

<sup>27</sup>Schwartz, *A History of the Supreme Court*, 337-361.

this right to privacy was extended to the right to kill a child in the womb,<sup>28</sup> quite a leap for a theory of interpretation as undefined as the “penumbra” theory.

In addition to *Roe* being based on questionable framework, it also relied on the manipulation of the plaintiff, as seen in the sworn affidavit of Norma McCorvey, aka Jane Roe, in 2000.<sup>29</sup> When McCorvey found she was pregnant for a third time, she felt alone and unsure of what course of action to take. She was put in contact with two attorneys who wanted to legalize abortion in Texas, Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee. About her involvement in the case, McCorvey said, “Weddington and the other supporters of abortion used me and my circumstance to urge the courts to legalize abortion without any meaningful trial which addressed the humanity of the baby, and what abortion would do to women.”<sup>30</sup> McCorvey only met with her lawyers twice, and did not testify, attend a hearing, or appear in court. Her interests and well-being were not considered. A group of all male justices decided *Roe* 7-2. At the end of the affidavit, McCorvey described the abortion business: “[The] clinic workers suffer, the women suffer, and the babies die.” Norma never even had the abortion, and said she was “dedicat[ed] to spending [her] life undoing the law that bears [her] name.”<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>Schwartz, *A History of the Supreme Court*, 340-361; Carole Novielli, “Legal Foundation of Abortion in *Roe v. Wade* is Total Nonsense,” Live Action, Accessed January 22, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/legal- foundation-abortion-roe-nonsense/>

<sup>29</sup>Norma McCorvey, “The Truth about *Roe v Wade* (according to “Jane Roe,” Norma McCorvey), Eternal Perspectives Ministries with Randy Alcorn, Accessed January 21, 2020, <https://www.epm.org/resources/2000/Mar/2/ truth-about-roe-v-wade-according-jane-roe-norma-mc/>

<sup>30</sup>McCorvey, “The Truth about *Roe v Wade*.”

<sup>31</sup>McCorvey, “The Truth about *Roe v Wade*.”

Issued on the same day as *Roe v. Wade*, *Doe v. Bolton* defined the “health” of the mother as “all factors” that affect the woman, including “physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age,”<sup>32</sup> thus legalizing abortion on demand for all reasons. Similar to McCorvey of *Roe v. Wade*, Sandra Cano of *Doe v. Bolton* did not want an abortion, nor did she ever have one. She was seeking legal help to get custody of her children while pregnant with her fourth child and in the midst of a divorce when her lawyer, Margie Pitts Hames, “tricked her into signing the affidavit that formed the basis of the plaintiff’s charges in *Doe*.”<sup>33</sup> Cano was very poor, but terminating the life of her child never crossed her mind. About the matter, Cano said, “I do not believe it is my signature on the affidavit, and Margie either forged my signature or slipped this document in with other papers while I was signing divorce papers... The facts stated in the affidavit in *Doe v. Bolton* are not true.”<sup>34</sup> Her case was also not based on her interests, but on those of her lawyer. She, like Norma, dedicated her life to undoing the decision.<sup>35</sup> The lives of Sandra Cano and Norma McCorvey are testaments to the fact that abortion legislation is not meant to support women, but to exploit them when they are vulnerable and alone.

Thirdly, Planned Parenthood’s profit-before-people business model illuminates the reality that life is what empowers women, not abortion. Planned Parenthood performs

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<sup>32</sup>*Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S 179, 192-193, (1973).

<sup>33</sup>Rebecca Downs, “7 Facts to Know about the Woman Behind *Doe v. Bolton*,” Live Action, Accessed February 28, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/news/woman-behind-doe-v-bolton/>

<sup>34</sup>Downs, “7 Facts to Know about the Woman Behind *Doe v. Bolton*.”

<sup>35</sup>Cherl Sullenger, “From Abortion ‘Pawn’ to Pro-Life Warrior: Sandra Cano Has Died,” Operation Rescue, Accessed April 15, 2020, <https://www.operationrescue.org/archives/from-abortion-pawn-to-pro-life-warrior -sandra-cano-has-died/>

sex-selective abortions, the most violent form of gender discrimination. As documented in six separate studies within the last four years,<sup>36</sup> researchers have found that thousands of girls have been aborted in the United States due to their gender.<sup>37</sup> In addition, Planned Parenthood alleges that only 3% of the services they provide are abortions, when in fact, one in eight women receive abortions.<sup>38</sup> Even the *Washington Post*, a well-known pro-abortion media outlet, gave the 3% three out of four “Pinocchios,” deeming the figure highly misleading.<sup>39</sup> Planned Parenthood does not provide mammograms, and they recently fired former president Dr. Leana Wen on account of her desire to shift Planned Parenthood’s focus from abortion to overall women’s healthcare.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>36</sup>Douglas Almond and Lena Edlund, “Son-Biased Sex Ratios in the 2000 United States Census,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Accessed March 23, 2020, <http://www.pnas.org/content/105/15/5681.full.pdf>; Jason Abrevaya, “Are There Missing Girls in the United States? Evidence from Birth data,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Accessed March 21, 2020, <http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/app.1.2.1>; Robert Nachtigall and Sunita Puri, “The Ethics of Sex Selection: A Comparison of the Attitudes and Experiences of Primary Care Physicians and Physician Providers of Clinical Sex Selection Services,” *Fertility and Sterility*, Accessed March 20, 2020, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0015028209004725>; Sunita Puri et al, “‘There is Such A Thing as Too Many Daughters, But Not Too Many Sons’: A Qualitative Study of Son Preference and Fetal Sex Selection among Indian Immigrants in the United States,” *Social Science and Medicine*, Accessed March 20, 2020, <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953611000700>; James Egan et al, “Distortions of Sex Ratios at Birth in the United States; Evidence for Prenatal Gender Selection,” *Prenatal Diagnosis*, Accessed March 19, 2020, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pd.2747/abstract>

<sup>37</sup>Katie Bryan, “GENDERCIDE in America: ARE OUR GIRLS BEING TARGETED?,” ProtectOurGirls.com, Accessed February 27, 2020, <http://protectourgirls.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/sexselectionfactsheet.pdf>

<sup>38</sup>“2014-2015 Annual Report”; Rachel Larimore, “The Most Meaningless Abortion Statistic Ever,” *Slate*, Accessed April 15, 2020, <https://slate.com/human-interest/2013/05/3-percent-of-planned-parenthood-s-services-are-abortion-but-what-about-their-revenues.html>; Admin., “The 3% Myth,” Live Action, Accessed February 4, 2020, <https://www.liveaction.org/learn/3percent/>

<sup>39</sup>Michelle Ye Hee Lee, “For Planned Parenthood Abortion Stats, ‘3 Percent,’ and ‘94 Percent’ Are Both Misleading,” *Washington Post*, Accessed March 4, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com>

<sup>40</sup>Kate Smith, “Planned Parenthood Ousts President Amid Organizational Turmoil,” *CBS News*, Accessed March 20, 2020, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/leana-wen-planned-parenthood-president-removed-from-position-today-live-updates-2019-07-16/>

Moreover, Planned Parenthood is not safe for women. There have been numerous incidents of unclean facilities, improper inspections, and botched abortions at Planned Parenthoods around the country. In Missouri, ambulances have carried women to the hospital from the St. Louis Planned Parenthood 71 times since 2009.<sup>41</sup> Due to these incidents, the location was inspected, and found to be improperly handling bodily fluids and not practicing proper handwashing.<sup>42</sup> Pennsylvania Planned Parenthoods have failed fourteen out of thirty inspections since 2017.<sup>43</sup> In Wilmington, Delaware, Planned Parenthood was found to be reusing instruments without proper sanitation. After this offense was inspected, fourteen more health violations were found. Delaware Attorney General described the situation as a “clear and immediate danger to the public.”<sup>44</sup> In some states like Vermont, abortion facilities are not inspected at all,<sup>45</sup> while in others such as

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<sup>41</sup>“‘Unmoving’ Abortion Patient Becomes 71st Medical Emergency Requiring Ambulance Transport from St. Louis Planned Parenthood,” Operation Rescue, Accessed March 24, 2020, <https://www.operationrescue.org/archives/unmoving-abortion-patient-becomes-71st-medical-emergency-requiring-ambulance-transport-from-st-louis-planned-parenthood/>

<sup>42</sup>Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, *Reproductive Health Services/Planning*, Accessed March 25, 2020, <https://abortiondocs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/05252017-Licensure-Survey-PP-StL.pdf>

<sup>43</sup>Dan Bartkowiak, “Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinics Have Failed 14 Pennsylvania Health Inspections Since 2017,” *LifeNews.com*, Accessed March 24, 2020, <https://www.lifenews.com/2018/06/05/planned-parenthood-abortion-clinics-have-failed-14-pennsylvania-health-inspections-since-2017/>

<sup>44</sup>Cris Barrish and Beth Miller, “Del. Abortion Doctor Under Scrutiny Defends Methods,” *USA Today*, Accessed April 14, 2020, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/06/03/abortion-doctor-defends-methods/2383921/>; Ben Johnson, “‘A Slap on the Wrist’: Delaware Fines Abortionist \$1,500 for Running Filthy ‘Meat-Market’ Clinic,” *LifeSite*, Accessed March 24, 2020, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/a-slap-on-the-wrist-delaware-fines-abortionist-1500-for-running-a-filthy-me>

<sup>45</sup>“State Facts about Abortion: Vermont,” Guttmacher Institute, Accessed April 12, 2020, <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-vermont>

New York, the 25 facilities have only received 45 inspections since 2000, eight having never been inspected at all.<sup>46</sup> “Only 28 states require abortion providers to report post-abortion complications, and states are not required to submit abortion data” to the CDC.<sup>47</sup> If Planned Parenthood truly wanted to protect women, they would ensure their safety. The answer for helping women in crisis pregnancies is not to get rid of their baby, but rather to remove the crisis. Yet instead of helping women in their time of need, Planned Parenthood sells a lie disguised as empowerment.

***Refutatio:***

Abortion rights advocates argue that women cannot be forced to carry a child to term due to the mental effects of an unplanned pregnancy. According to Global Doctors for Choice, women who express that their pregnancy is unwanted at prenatal checkups are “twice as likely to develop symptoms of depression or anxiety.” Their studies concluded that “denying abortion, despite the existing health risks associated, puts women at great risk.”<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>46</sup>Katherine Howell, “Most Abortion Clinics Not Inspected in New York over Last Decade,” *National Review*, Accessed April 13, 2020, <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/most-abortion-clinics-not-inspected-new-york-over-last-decade-katherine-connell/>

<sup>47</sup>Kathi Aultman, “I Was an Abortionist. The Abortion Industry isn't Willing to Prioritize Patient Safety,” *USA Today*, Accessed April 13, 2020, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/01/22/abortion-doctor-complications-pro-life-roe-wade-column/4530180002/>; Admin., “Abortion Reporting Requirements,” Guttmacher Institute, Accessed April 13, 2020, <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/abortion-reporting-requirements>

<sup>48</sup>“Unwanted Pregnancy, Forced Continuation of Pregnancy and Effects of Mental Health,” Global Doctors for Choice Network, Accessed March 21, 2020, <https://globaldoctorsforchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/Unwanted-Pregnancy-Forced-Continuation-of-Pregnancy-and-Effects-on-Mental-Health-v2.pdf>

However, *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* conducted a study examining the relationship between abortion, mental disorders, and suicidality by interviewing a sample of women from various backgrounds. Previous studies have yielded mixed results due to the reliance on “self-reported symptomology” and the use of “small, restricted, or treatment-seeking samples,” causing them to not be “generalizable to the population at large,”<sup>49</sup> but this study used the World Mental Health–Composite International Diagnostic Interview to test the women’s mental disorders. Strong associations with abortion were found between mood and anxiety disorders, substance abuse disorders, suicidal behavior, and depression.<sup>50</sup> In addition, *Medical News Today* reported several studies revealing the detrimental effects of abortion. A thirty-year longitudinal study reported in 2008 showed that the rates of mental disorders in women who have had abortions are about 30% higher.<sup>51</sup> Research from the *British Journal of Psychiatry* published in 2011 revealed a “moderate to highly increased risk of mental health problems after abortion.”<sup>52</sup> A study by mental health experts in the Netherlands suggests

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<sup>49</sup>Natalie Mota, Margaret Burnett, and Jitender Sareen, “Associations Between Abortion, Mental Disorders, and Suicidal Behaviour in a Nationally Representative Sample,” *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 55, no. 4 (April 2010): 239-245, <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/070674371005500407>.

<sup>50</sup>Mota, Burnett, and Sareen, “Associations Between Abortion, Mental Disorders, and Suicidal Behaviour,” 239-245.

<sup>51</sup>David Fergusson, L. John Horwood, and Joseph Boden, “Abortion and Mental Health Disorders: Evidence from a 30-Year Longitudinal Study,” *Royal College of Psychiatrists* 193, no.6 (December 2008): 444-451, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/abortion-and-mental-health-disorders-evidence-from-a-30year-longitudinal-study/59A90CBF3A58C58B342CBCFFBBFEBD2E>

<sup>52</sup>Priscilla Coleman, “Abortion and Mental Health: Quantitative Synthesis and Analysis of Research Published 1995–2009,” *Royal College of Psychiatry* 3, no. 199 (September 2011): 180-186, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/abortion-and-mental-health-quantitative-synthesis-and-analysis-of-research-published-19952009/E8D556AAE1C1D2F0F8B060B28BEE6C3D>

that women suffering from poor mental health before the pregnancy are greatly at risk of experiencing negative emotions after a termination.<sup>53</sup>

Furthermore, abortion rights supporters hold that abortion provides women with the same control over their futures as men. An article in *The Guardian* demonstrates the pro-choice idea of the pro-life stance, saying pro-lifers think “that it’s more important for women to be mothers than go to college; ...that a woman’s ability to incubate a fetus trumps any other contribution to society that she could possibly make.”<sup>54</sup> However, this is not the case. Yes, women should have control of their futures, and access to the same opportunities as men, but the rights of another, distinct human being should not be denied in the process. The feminist movement is supposed to provide a voice to a historically oppressed gender, but today feminists lead the fight against a generation of females who cannot speak for themselves. Though it is obviously easier to be successful while only supporting oneself, economic well-being should never be placed above human life. If we truly value life and women, we will provide women with the support to carry their baby to term because the value of the second human life makes the increased difficulties more than worth the cost. So many women in unplanned pregnancies are waiting for someone to tell them they are strong enough to go through with the pregnancy, and the pro-life movement supports both the mother and the child.

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<sup>53</sup>Wilma A. M. Vollebergh, Jenneke van Ditzhuijzen, Margreet Ten Have, Ron de Graaf, and Carolus H. C. J. van Nijnatten, “The Impact of Psychiatric History on Women's Pre- And Postabortion Experiences,” *U.S National Library of Medicine* 92, no. 3 (September 2015):246-253, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26002806/>

<sup>54</sup>Jessica Valenti, “Abortion Isn't About the Right to Privacy. It's About Women's Right to Equality,” *The Guardian*, Accessed March 25, 2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/oct/14/abortion-right-to-privacy-women-right-to-equality>

***Peroratio:***

Now I ask you to reexamine the stories of Michelle Williams and Caitlyn Dixson. I have established that the rights of even the smallest and most helpless women begin at conception, the dual victimhood of abortion, as both the mother and the child are hurt, the origins of today's abortion rights movement in the exploitation of women, and the evidence that Planned Parenthood values profit above women. Which sounds more empowering: telling women success is too difficult when pregnancy interferes, or telling women that they are strong enough to choose life as well as choose their career? Feminism as it is cannot stand; it must be reconciled with its roots in order to protect the rights of women at every stage of life and level of development.

To create this new feminism, we must start by recognizing the sanctity of life. The preborn must be rehumanized in the eyes of the American people. We must support crisis pregnancy centers and adoption agencies which help women raise their child, or place him or her in a loving home. Also, feminists must recognize the trauma of post-abortive mothers and empathize with their pain. Instead of trying to make men and women the same by giving women a way out of pregnancy, feminists should recognize that what makes women different does not make them less capable, that equality is not synonymous with sameness. Caitlyn Dixson, not Michelle Williams, is the empowered woman because she did not accept the lie that she was not strong enough; instead, she fought to have both her child and her dreams, proving that we must not settle for a feminism that tells women what they cannot do. To save feminism, and restore its original purpose of empowering women by providing them with equal opportunities, and celebrating all they

are capable of, members of the pro-life movement must take back the feminist movement, and return to where the early feminists left off in the fight for the rights of all women, both born and preborn.

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