

Waco Tribune-Herald

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Abortion debate

Pro-Life Waco should correctly be called Forced-Birth Advocates Waco. John Pisciotta, the organization's director, tried to twist the meaning of our "Day Without Women" protest into some sort of anti-abortion drivél. The protest was about the importance of women to our society and how we are tired, in the year 2017, of still being treated like second-class citizens in some areas of our lives. It had nothing to do with his views on abortion or Planned Parenthood.

I find it very telling that it is a *man* who oversees the forced-birth advocates' organization in Waco. The truth is, we don't need a man to "mansplain" to us anything at all about our reproduction and health care. He demonizes Planned Parenthood. Most

of what this outstanding organization does provides birth control and screenings for low-income women.

What gets me about him and his organization is that he objects to abortion, which is legal in the United States. Yet he and his organization will not support programs which have been shown to significantly reduce the *need* for abortions. These include making birth control easily and cheaply available to any woman who wants it. Also, realistic and comprehensive sex-education programs in the schools for both boys and girls have been shown to be very effective.

Forced-birth advocates' concerns have little, if anything, to do with "the unborn" or morality. It has everything to do with controlling women. When women gained control over our reproduction with birth control and abortion as a backup, we could no longer be so easily controlled. Some men, like Mr. Pisciotta, have been trying to regain that power ever since.

Linda Robinson, Bellmead

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Some years ago, two teenagers were killed by their father in Dallas. The girls had shamed the family by wearing tight clothes and dating boys not approved of by their parents. The father was arrested for murder.

I long for a world where parents' choices are respected. A society where parents and their families are trusted with their own decisions regarding their children. A government where legislators are not determined to get in the middle of intensely personal decisions.

That's what I saw when I read Cheryl Foster's letter about pro-life. I see no difference between an unborn child and those two teenagers.

Peggy Cunningham, Bruceville