



SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



1. End the Silence, Stop Putting Women at Risk

Dear Editor,

Major peer-reviewed medical journals have published studies showing that, compared to women who give birth, women who abort are 65% more likely to suffer from clinical depression. 65% suffer symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. They also have a higher risk of death from accidents, violence, natural causes, and suicide. (See www.TheUnChoice.com for summaries of published research.)

Other studies indicate that 64% of abortions in America involve coercion. Suicide rates are 6 times higher if women abort versus giving birth. Yet almost no one in the major media has covered these stories.

An uninformed, unwanted, and unsafe choice is not a choice. It is time for the media and the abortion industry to end the silence and stop putting women at risk.

2. Privately Funded Studies Expose Government Cover-Up

Dear Editor,

Abortion advocates insist that we need lawmakers who will protect women's right to choose. Yet in 1987, when then-Surgeon General C. Everett Koop called for the government to fund a major study to assess the physical and psychological impact of abortion on women, the "pro-choice" majority in Congress refused to authorize such a study.

To date, no major government study has ever been done on the effects of abortion — a procedure which more than a million American women experience each year — yet privately funded studies published in major medical journals have shown abortion causes far more deaths, reproductive damage and psychological illness than was ever previously expected. (See www.TheUnChoice.com for current research.)

Recent research published in a major peer-reviewed journal found that 84% of women felt they did not receive adequate counseling before abortion. Women have been kept in the dark for too long. And all Americans have a right to be fully informed about the risks of abortion to their daughters, wives, sisters and friends. Abortion advocates who truly care about women's rights and well-being, should join pro-life activists in ensuring that those who profit from abortion fairly inform women about the risks.

3. Women Are Forced into Unwanted Abortions

Dear Editor,

Each year, more than a million American women undergo abortions. Research published in peer-reviewed medical journals indicates that 64% of abortions involve coercion. Even the National Abortion Federation reports that one in five women being served by their clinics have abortions despite being morally opposed to it. Other studies show that most women undergoing abortions do so because of pressure from others, such as boyfriends, husbands or parents. An abortion clinic security guard testified that women are routinely threatened and abused outside abortion clinics by men who want to make sure they keep their scheduled appointment.

The truth is that most women don't want abortions. Those who have abortions often do so based on inaccurate or

continued ▶

inadequate information, non-support, and intense pressure, which can escalate to violence. (See “Forced Abortion in America” at www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm)

If those who support legal abortion truly want to make abortion rare, as they claim, they should support alternatives, information, and legislation to prevent coerced, unwanted abortions.

4. Unwanted Abortions, Not Unwanted Babies, Are the Real Problem

Dear Editor,

In 1999, Richard Serron, a former abortion clinic security guard, testified at a legislative hearing that anti-abortion protestors were not a major threat to women. Instead, he said, women were regularly threatened and abused by the boyfriends and husbands who took them to the clinics to make sure they underwent their scheduled abortions.

Many women, like Cassandra Betts (an Ohio woman who was shot in the head by her boyfriend in 2000) and Stephanie Nichole Burnett (a 16-year-old Arkansas girl who was beaten to death by her boyfriend in April 2002), have even been killed for refusing to have abortions. Studies show that most women having abortions feel forced to have abortions they don't really want. A recent study published in a major peer-reviewed medical journal indicates that 64% felt pressured into abortion. Unwanted abortions are a much bigger problem than “unwanted babies.” People will grow to love the latter, but never the former.

Women are routinely pushed into unwanted abortions and denied the information they need to make an informed choice. The study mentioned above also found that 84% were not fully informed about their abortions. (Visit www.TheUnChoice.com to learn more.) Women deserve real choices, not the illusion of choice.

REMINDERS

- **This is often a newspaper's most-read page.** The “Letters to the Editor” page is a well-attended public forum. Your letter can help convert the “fence-sitters” by informing them about new studies documenting the suffering caused by abortion.
- **Watch for timely stories.** If your newspaper prints *anything* about abortion, respond by commenting on it and adding a fact or two. Refer readers to www.theunchoice.com (quick-reference site) or www.afterabortion.org (more comprehensive, content-rich site) for new research and information.
- **Consider email for expediency.** If it's faster and more convenient, send an email — the address is usually printed at the bottom of the “Letters” page.
- **Influence legislators.** Lawmakers read letters to the editor to gauge what people are thinking. They monitor the content and number of letters on a particular issue.
- **Organize a letter-writing campaign.** Your group can send a few letters each month, or as current issues arise.
- **Use the samples as a guide, adding your own wording and insights.** Use news, information, fact sheets and other resources from www.afterabortion.org or www.theunchoice.com.