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Abortion Does Harm Women

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Frances Sheehan made comments (DLN, Jan 22) regarding statistics presented in the March for Life speech as "absolutely false" and "blatantly disordered." Her ideology is so threatened by the fact that women can be hurt by abortion that she refuses to acknowledge the possibility. Groups like American Victims of Abortion, Women Exploited by Abortion, Victims of Choice and others couldn't wait around for the APA or AMA or Planned Parenthood to validate their grief.

Former Surgeon General Koop stated that available studies were flawed because they did not examine the problem of psychological consequences over a sufficiently long period. He recommended that millions of dollars be spent on investigating this area, but choice advocates and the Clinton administration have consistently blocked governmental funding of these research efforts. But the studies have been carried out anyway in meticulously correct research designs which in fact point to the conclusion that abortion is responsible for a profound array of emotional disturbances in a woman's lifetime.

Let readers cite the numerous studies done by the Elliot Institute sampling thousands of women, or research conducted by the Institute of Pregnancy Loss and Child Abuse Research and Recovery, or research cited by the Association for Interdisciplinary Research in Values and Social Change in Washington, D.C., and hundreds of others coming to the same conclusion. Planned Parenthood has refused to conduct its own studies 10-20 years after a woman's abortion.

Sheehan further suggests that every medical organization in the country supports abortion. I'd like to call attention to the ad placed in yesterday's Philadelphia Inquirer signed by 200 physicians in the Philadelphia area who denounce the practice of abortion, saying that induced abortion is the killing of a living human being, and that is it their "duty, as qualified experts, to point out these facts."

Planned Parenthood fought each requirement of the Pennsylvania Control Act with a vengeance, and reluctantly carried out the required "counseling" via a tape-recorded message. The cancer studies continue to be suppressed and blatantly disregarded. We cannot tolerate this negligence against women perpetrated by all who profit from their crisis.



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