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Post-Abortion Syndrome Eyed

By Keith Peters

It's a malady that isn't talked about by the people who push abortion -- the effects of that choice on the woman. Some in Congress want to help.

Nearly 3 million women a year have an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy -- and almost 1.2 million of them respond by aborting their babies. The effect of that decision can be devastating -- and often goes unreported.

Now there's a plan in Congress to help post-abortive women. H.R. 4543, the Post-Abortion Depression Research and Care Act, sponsored by Rep. Joe Pitts, R-Pa., calls for \$15 million to research the emotional impact of abortion and also creates a grant program to fund the development of treatment programs for women who suffer from post-abortion depression.

Georgette Forney of Episcopalians for Life said the plan is unique. "I feel like I'm part of a 31-year experiment as a woman who has had an abortion", Forney said. "There's never been any research done on what this looks like long-term, and I think that this bill will help with that".

Objective data is needed, she added, on what abortion does to a woman's emotional health. Dr. Theresa Burke of Rachel's Vineyard, a ministry of Priests for Life, agreed. "Women are being hurt by this physically, emotionally, and spiritually", she said. "It's time that the government take stock...and see the effect it's having".

U.S. Rep. Trent Franks said the legislation spotlights three things about abortion. "Number one, a nameless lonely little baby dies all by themselves (in an abortion)," he said. "Number two, a mother is never the same. And number three, all the gifts that that child might have brought to humanity are lost forever."



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