

OPINION

Letters: Patients should be able to make decisions without politicians interfering

Iowa City Press-Citizen Published 5:17 p.m. CT Nov. 27, 2018



(Photo: Des Moines Register)

Patients should be able to make decisions without politicians interfering

In her November 14 article, “Gov. Kim Reynolds should work to prevent unplanned pregnancies...” Ms. Basu makes many excellent points about the negative impact of Iowa state policies that have eliminated funding for contraception causing closures of several reproductive health care clinics. Abortion access in Iowa was always difficult in our rural state prior to the closings, but now the logistical barriers to patients are nearly insurmountable. As a physician, I know that once a patient has made the decision to end a pregnancy, they need timely access to affordable, compassionate, and expert health care, and my patients prefer that care to be within their community. Abortion is a safe part of essential health care that 1 in 4 U.S. women will need by

the age of 45. For my patients, the biggest threat to quality abortion care is the multitude of unnecessary regulations that increase cost and delay their care. All of my patients should be able to make health care decisions, including the decision to have an abortion, with dignity and respect without Iowan politicians interfering in the exam room.

-Abbey Hardy-Fairbanks, MD, Iowa City

What makes higher education great is how it challenges you

Higher education, what's so great about it? I would be lying if I said I thought it was for everyone, it's not, but that shouldn't stop you from considering it. Our culture today makes it seem as if it is a necessity, that's how I used to see it, but I would encourage you to look at it differently. Know that it's not the only option, consider others, trade school, for example. But, if you have concluded that the path of higher education is right for you, I would recommend you carefully consider your motives and mindset before embarking on this adventure.

University level work is not the same as high-school work, I realize this may seem like an obvious and unnecessary statement. But one must understand that before entering a first semester at a university. I felt quite prepared after good grades in high school, and some community college work and presumed I must surely be ready to take on this new landscape of education. That, however, was false. Higher education will require many people, including myself, to change how they approach learning if they want to succeed with great achievement. For myself, the increased time requirement was a surprise. Whatever you have imagined, it's likely more. Along with the time requirement, everything else, as expected, increased in difficulty as well. Test are harder, obviously. Assignments will, generally, be harder.

Wh
a c:
thir

1 free article left.

Support Local Journalism Today
\$5 for 3 months. Save 83%.

Wh
by.
you

Subscribe Now

Press-Citizen

lon't often state it frankly enough; but second, to follow it up with a different message, sue it for the challenge. I walked into my first semester just moving on to the next when I began to see course work as more of a challenge, true learning came.

walk in with the wrong mindset, you'll either have to change it, or maybe just scrape n pursue higher education and you'll benefit. If you've breezed by thus far, consider

-Seth Platt, Iowa City

Read or Share this story: <https://www.press-citizen.com/story/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2018/11/27/patients-should-able-make-decisions-without-interference/2123447002/>

1 free article left.

Support Local Journalism Today
\$5 for 3 months. Save 83%.

Subscribe Now

· [Press-Citizen](#)