

**Live coverage****Follow our reporters' updates as Harvey swamps the gulf coast of Texas**

OPINION JUN 2013

## Is the current Texas abortion legislation about preserving life or controlling women? Surprise -- Our readers' answers differ

*Letters to the Editor*

Don't miss a story. Like us on Facebook.

**How are they not human?**[Re: "Texas lawmakers need to stop bullying on abortion" by Jacquelyn Floyd, Tuesday Metro column.](#)

Floyd chastises those who would limit abortions for basing their position upon "a dense cloud of made-up science and phony medicine." Exactly one year ago, The News ran a letter I wrote in response to a column by Floyd on the same subject ("An abortion? The state has a few questions first," June 19, 2012). The key

question is the same today as it was last year, and it will be the same a year from now: Is the pre-born a human being or not?

I wonder if Floyd realizes that bastion of made-up science and phony medicine named “the Mayo Clinic” publishes evidence contradicting her position. According to the Mayo Clinic, the human fetus’ heart is beating 22 days after fertilization, his or her brain waves are detectible at 6 weeks, and he or she is dreaming at 17 weeks (not yet halfway to full-term).

This is not a human being?

*Chip Field, Dallas*

### **Adoption addendum**

Floyd’s article was right on. Our great God-fearing Gov and the rest of his right wing do-gooders need to pass one more bill. The additional bill should state that each one of the politicians who supported the bills to severely limit abortions will adopt and/or provide financial support for one unwanted child each year that they are a politician. That’s not asking too much, is it?

When will politicians — especially old white men — understand that abortion should be between the woman and her family, her doctor and her God, and nobody else?

*Ron Highfill, Denton*

### **Only affects the poor**

Yes, I am a woman who is “insulted” and “aghast” that our legislators would think I am so ignorant that I cannot think for myself. What must these men’s wives, daughters and granddaughters think of them? Do these women think they must be protected from their own imbecilic thoughts?

These laws will punish the least fortunate while allowing abortion for the upper classes to continue. It becomes just a matter of transportation. Fly-out abortion services will still be available to those who can afford the airfare to California. Only the poor will be left behind.

My plans include investigating who these pompous know-it-alls are so I can deny them all my future votes.

*Jennifer Young, Dallas/Oak Lawn*

### **It’s about life**

Floyd used the word “abortion” eight times in her recent column criticizing pro-life efforts in our Texas Legislature. She used the words “unborn children” only once.

Floyd will never understand pro-life efforts unless her focus can change from abortion to the unborn child.

It’s not about religion. It’s not about male lawyers imposing their beliefs on women. It’s about the unborn child.

*Pam Wilkerson, Coppell*

### **Don’t cite Bible for this**

Floyd’s assessment of the Texas Legislature and Gov. Perry’s attack on women’s reproductive rights is spot-on.

They want minimal control over guns, minimal oversight of environmental protection, minimal funding of programs that aid needy children and their families, and maximum, speedy implementation of the death penalty, all of which are pretty “anti-life” and, hence, by their ostensibly Biblical rationale, anti-Christian.

I’d like for them to point out the chapter and verse that says abortion is a sin; don’t cite “Thou shalt not kill” — that’s about people, not fetuses. And it’s in the Old Testament Pentateuch, which also bans menstruating women from being around men and all of us from eating shellfish, among other things.

Control over pregnancy is control over women’s bodies, which is control over women’s social, moral and, perhaps most importantly in our money-focused country, economic agency.

Thank you, Dallas Morning News, for publishing this. Floyd’s voice is profoundly American and democratic.

*Rhonda Blair, Dallas*

### **Texans are for choice**

Floyd’s column on Tuesday was wonderful. I totally agree with everything she said about Texas lawmakers, politicians and abortion.

It makes me sick to my stomach to see the anti-abortion people picketing Planned Parenthood in McKinney. Abortion is a choice. It is up to each individual woman to make the decision herself. It’s wonderful to see

someone from this part of the country actually standing up for women and for women's rights.

The current abortion bills in Texas will not protect women. We need more people like Floyd to speak up on our behalf.

Thank you, Ms. Floyd, and thank you, Dallas Morning News, for printing her column.

*Terry Wooster, McKinney*

### **Not just a procedure**

Another interesting tirade from Ms. Floyd. Honestly, she makes having an abortion the equivalent of maybe a breast augmentation — my breasts, my business.

But if one reads her piece and substitutes “kill a baby” or “baby killing” for each use of the word “abortion,” then a more accurate depiction of this ongoing debate begins to make sense.

It's a baby, Ms. Floyd, and every abortion ends an innocent life.

*Geri Everett, Dallas*

### **Legal doesn't mean right**

Floyd has decided the issue of abortion is settled. Therefore, anybody who sees abortion as murder is a religious zealot who thinks anyone who believes that abortion is right is an idiot. Nothing could be further from the truth.

You do not have to believe in God to realize the unborn child inside the womb is a person, created equal and with certain unalienable rights. To kill this child is wrong. I'm sure to hear about Roe vs. Wade, but the robed folks in Washington can get it wrong, too.

No, Ms. Floyd, all your crude names can't cover the fact that this debate is far from over.

*Tom Graham, McKinney*

### **Can't have it both ways**

[Re: “Abortion as birth control” by David Ramsey, Wednesday Letters.](#)

Too often we talk around one another about abortion.

Ramsey writes the “number of abortions far, far exceeds the excuses of rape, incest and health of the mother.”

He says it has become a form of birth control. I agree.

But the solution is not to take away women’s control of their bodies and futures; it’s better education of young people about alternative means of birth control.

Unfortunately that’s an alternative that many abortion foes, including the Texas Legislature, also oppose.

*Jonathan Kutner, Dallas/Uptown*

### **Dangerous political games**

[Re: “Abortion bills aim to push legal limits — Republican legislation would make Texas laws toughest in U.S.,” June 16 news story.](#)

As a family physician, I am outraged at Gov. Perry’s most recent assaults on Texas families through health care restrictions.

The bans that Gov. Perry and Texas legislators have proposed would radically change the lives of my patients, like “Lisa,” and her husband, “Tom.”

As a loving mother of two, Lisa was devastated when on her 20-week ultrasound, they discovered multiple organ abnormalities. This meant their son would be born not only with neurologic deficits but also needing intensive hospital care and surgery, with only a small chance of survival or ever going home.

Lisa and Tom made the heartbreaking decision to end this pregnancy and prevent their son from suffering at birth. If the governor’s 20-week ban were to pass, patients like Lisa would be left with nowhere to turn.

One in three U.S women will have an abortion in her lifetime, and restrictive legislation does not change this fact — it only places incredible burdens on the lives of these women.

By legislating away access to a safe, legal medical procedure, Gov. Perry is playing a dangerous political game with the well-being of Texas families.

*Robin Wallace, M.D., Dallas*

 [VIEW COMMENTS](#)

---

**OPINION**

## Get the Most Important D-FW News in Your Inbox

Sign up for our daily email newsletters

your@email.com

Get Headlines, Business, SportsDay, and GuideLive. Change

**SIGN UP NOW**

---

## **OPINION**

 **LOADING...**

---

**About Us**

**Careers**

**Advertise**

**Contact Us**

**Special Sections**

**FAQ**

**Privacy Policy**

**Terms of Service**

**Site Map**

---

©2017, The Dallas Morning News Inc. All Rights Reserved.