

Have we considered rights of our men?

**By
Christina Kay Smith**

I have come here today to speak out to you in hopes you will listen. I am very aware you have heard every argument on the issues at hand, both for and against.

I have not come to condemn you or to judge you for your choices in this matter, for that is not my place. I will leave that to a higher calling.

Instead, I have come to remind you that you are men, chosen leaders of our people, to whom through our votes we have commended our futures and our very lives, as you sit where you are, I would hope you remember you are the present fathers of this great state we all live in and your choices here today will indeed bring into reality our tomorrow, our futures and well as yours depend on how you vote.

We have done much for the rights of women in this nation we live in, and yet I, as a woman, have to wonder at what we have done to preserve the rights of our men. Have we truly considered the rights of our men? In saying yes to

abortion are we not in fact telling our young men you have no rights to speak up for your own children? Are we not telling husbands they have no say in which of their children live or die? The issue of abortion is not an issue of women, it is in all truth, an issue of both men and women. When a woman stands up and says she is for abortion, she is saying she is against your very rights of fatherhood. She is standing up alone and saying you do not count. You have no say. In all truth, she wants no part of you future. No matter who you are. Voting yes on the issue of abortion gives you the man no rights in your own home, voting yes to abortion tells the women you have no power, you are no longer the head of your own house. Nor are you worth listening to.

The issue of abortion is not an issue of money, it is not an issue of freedom, or teenagers only, it is an issue of life, an issue of home, marriage, sons and daughters no matter what their age or circumstance, our future together as a great state, and men who would stand up and say I am Responsible. I

will fight for my children.

You, the chosen men of our State Legislature are the fathers of our today, the fathers who are responsible for our future, no matter who we are out here the laws you pass are the ones which rule our children. And yes, you are their fathers. What message will you send for them to live by? Or die by?

This nation in which we live there are many states who will go for the vote to say yes to abortion, I challenge each and everyone of you, no matter what you believe to vote to abolish abortion in our State of Alaska, I challenge you to go against the flow. Dare to be different, do not follow the crowd, vote this issue out of our great state and say yes to family, marriages, to men, to children, to responsible behavior.

Is it not truth if you have a problem you find answer to it? Do you kill it or solve it? You solve it you exhaust all avenues available to you until you find the answer. Should we not do this also with our own problems?

An unwanted pregnancy is a problem weather, it is a

teenager or a woman, married or not, poor or rich, killing the problem is not the answer. Finding a solution is. If we have this problem here in our state, then our problems are far greater than we care to be responsible for. We are then responsible for the solutions necessary to bring about the changes needed to turn the problem around. Do not be hasty to kill the problem. Which you have been led to

believe is the child. The problem is not the child it is the adults involved in the issue. Therefore to vote yes to abortion is to say irresponsible behavior on the parts of the adults in the matter is alright with you.

Stand up and say NO!

Editor's note: The writer is of Tlingit and Irish descent. The Juneau resident read this to the legislature last week.

