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Mrs. Ward, Mr. Gary Gutting

In response to "On Abortion and Defining a 'Person'" by Gary Gutting

My thoughts on human DNA and abortion are completely against what Mr. Gutting is trying to

say in his article, "On Abortion and Defining a 'Person'" in the New York Times. There are many

reasons why I disagree with his thesis that DNA defines a life and all abortion as wrong. Scientifically,

sperm and eggs have human DNA, as well as cancerous cells, and dead humans. How can he claim

that by removing an embryo from a woman's body is a murdering a person, if an embryo is not a fully

functional human? A women's right to choose a pregnancy is protected in the United States by the

Constitution's 14th Amendment. It is a woman's moral and legal right to decide whether she wants to

continue her pregnancy. Mr. Gary Gutting is stating that abortion is wrong and should remain wrong. I

think that there are many reasons when abortion should be allowed. What about for the women who

are raped, or women with AIDS? Fertility doctors are well educated scientists who go to school for

eight to ten years in order to learn about medicine and science. I think Mr. Gary Gutting is

exaggerating when calling fertility doctors "murders." Fertility doctors are not only terminating

pregnancies for the women who wish that, they are also bringing lives to this world. Mr. Gutting's

logic that an implanted egg is on a natural path that will, if all goes well, lead to a full-term birth is

illogical.

Women have moral right to decide what to do with their bodies. Choosing not to have children

is a personal choice and should be respected by others. In 1973 abortion became legalized with the

landmark U.S Supreme Court case of Roe vs Wade. "Because abortions lie within a pregnant woman's "zone of privacy," guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, the abortion decision "and its effectuation" are fundamental rights that are protected by the Constitution" (McBride). Female persons should not feel ashamed of an unwanted pregnancy. The consequences of unprotected sex usually falls on the women and not the men. Not being able to have a choice of an abortion when wanted makes women seem inferior to men.

Fertility doctors are helping pregnant women. They are not murders.   Laura Beil wrote an article on the CNN website that states, "Experts estimate that hundreds of thousands of embryos have accumulated in fertility clinics throughout the country, some awaiting transfer but many literally frozen in time as parents ask themselves questions few among us ever consider with such immediacy" (Beil). Many of these embryos are wasted in fertility treatments. According to this article by Laura Beil, some unused embryos are donated for science research. These embryos help future pregnancies by allowing the medical community to study human development (Beil).

Gary Gutting's logic that an implanted egg is on a natural path that will, if all goes well, lead to a full-term birth is illogical. He doesn't believe in natural miscarriages. According to the Mayo Clinic, "About 10 to 20 percent of known pregnancies end in miscarriage." "Most miscarriages occur because the fetus isn't developing normally" (Mayo Clinic Staff). It is natural for pregnancies to sometimes end before the human life has begun.

Human DNA does not define a human life unlike what Gary Gutting believes. Humans are defined as having hands, feet, livers, hearts, and other human characteristics. A embryo is an 'it' or 'thing' not male or a female. Embryos have as many human characteristics as any other non humans. Sperm and eggs have human DNA just like embryos. When using contraceptives during intercourse Americans casually destroy sperm. Cancer cells have human DNA. We actively destroy and remove cancer cells from our bodies. Dead human being also has a human DNA. We destroy dead human beings all the time in crematories. An abortion allows us to terminate an embryo like a dead human,

sperm, or cancer cells that are not human beings.

Finally, I disagree with Mr. Gutting's opinion that a human life is defined as having human DNA. Gary Gutting's theory of defining life and justification of no abortion is illogical and absurd to me. A significant number of human characteristics, not just Human DNA defines a human life. He believes that implanted eggs always end up having a full term birth. That is not correct, because natural miscarriages can happen. In Mr. Gutting's editorial he writes a lot against abortion. The Supreme Court of the United States has already ruled that abortion is a fundamental right for all citizens. Gutting refuses to accept this 40-year-old legal ruling. Lastly Gary Gutting believes that fertility doctors are "murderers". Fertility doctors are helping pregnant women by studying discarded human embryos. Human life starts when a fetus develops all human characteristics and not just by having human DNA. Mr.Gutting's view on abortion is unrealistic and wrong. Mississippi referendum on abortion should start with the Roe vs Wade decision that abortion is right guaranteed by the US Constitution. Life is a precious thing. I firmly believe that what makes person a person is having human characteristics. Mr. Gutting should stop being so stubborn and instead relying on his opinion on defining human life, he should rely on the scientific facts. His thoughts and ideas are idiotic and leading public astray. The US government has already determined that an abortion is legal therefore there should be not further discussion.

Work Cited

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