

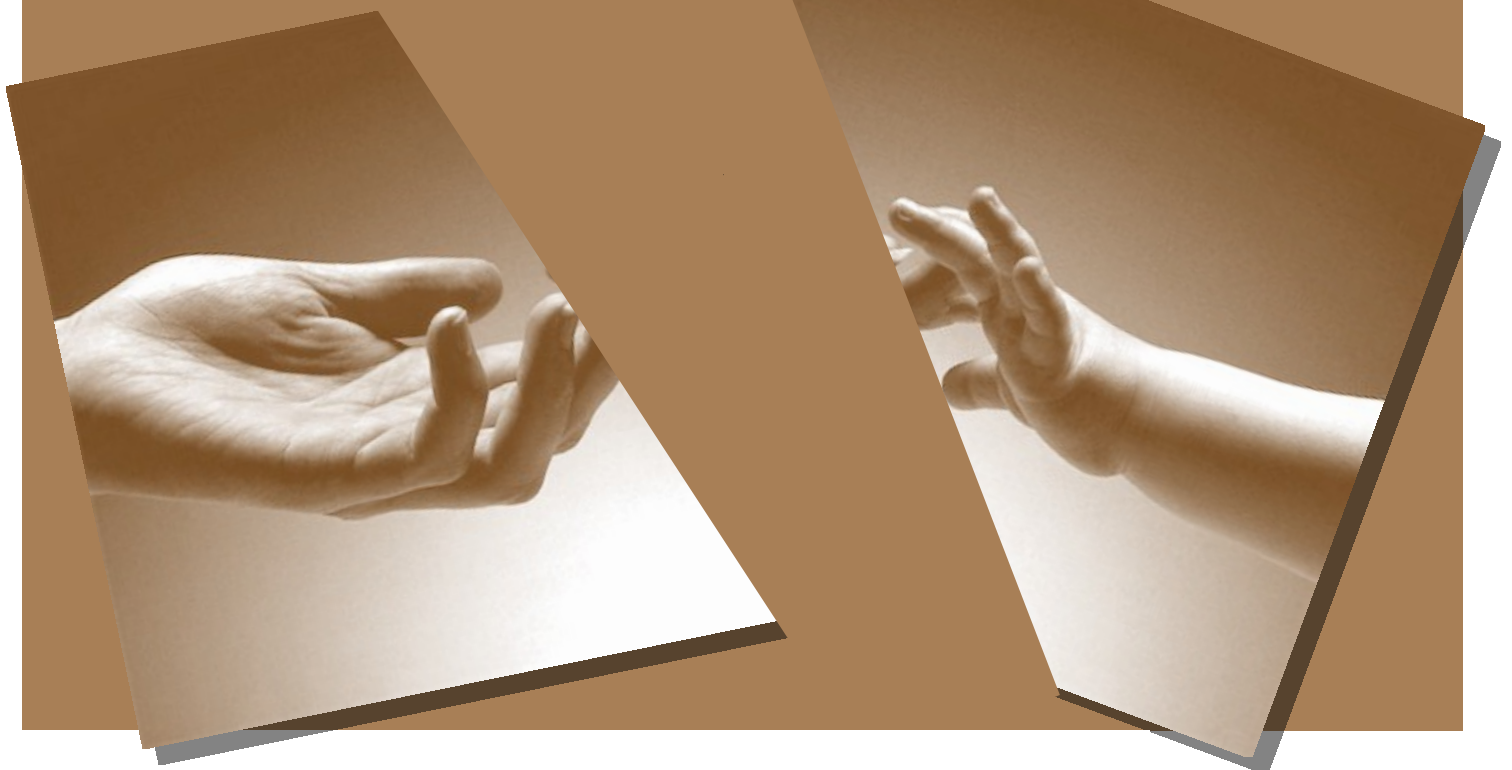
# *Abortion Deception*



***Planned Parenthood Aborts "Pro-Choice" Label Chooses "Nuanced" Deception***

Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D.  
Mario Diaz, Esq.

January 2013





**Planned Parenthood Aborts “Pro-Choice” Label**  
*Chooses “Nuanced” Deception*

Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D. and Mario Diaz, Esq.

**Concerned Women for America**  
ConcernedWomen.org

**Beverly LaHaye Institute**  
BeverlyLaHayeInstitute.org

# Executive Summary

The success of the pro-life community — with Americans identifying themselves as pro-life more than pro-choice by a nine point margin (50% to 41%), the largest spread in history — has created panic at the top of major “pro-choice” organizations. Why are so many women refusing to associate with the “pro-choice” label? They are even finding it hard to find doctors to support the abortion business.

After much self-examination, news reports reveal a new abortion strategy: Change the rhetoric. “Pro-Choice” is now considered “frivolous.” So abortion advocates substitute “soft” language that can be harder to define (and, therefore, poll). According to them, terms like “reproductive rights” or “reproductive justice” are more ambiguous and, therefore, better reflect the “complexity” of abortion. They ignore advancements in technology (like ultrasound), for example, and the testimony of countless women scarred by abortion. The dramatic pro-life shift is due to *the way* abortion activists sell abortion services. They also believe that new, younger leadership is needed; a leadership capable of attaching abortion to more popular liberal causes, like “gay” rights.

Interestingly, they see no need for policy reform. They are as radical as ever, perhaps even more so. They will continue to oppose *any* “specific regulation” of abortion, no matter how reasonable, ignoring the reality that 60 percent of “pro-choice” people support waiting periods and parental consent laws. They ignore data showing that they target minority communities for their abortions clinics, with nearly 80% of them in Black and/or Hispanic neighborhoods.

A *Time* magazine piece commented that the approach seems “tone deaf.” The piece notices, for example, something pro-lifers have tried to expose for years: the abortion battle “is largely waged on the margins of reality.” Even though abortion advocates always want to debate the rape or incest examples, “In truth, these are mere slivers of the abortion story in America.”

As long as the abortion industry continues to ignore the gruesome facts of the cause for which they fight, they will continue to drift farther away from those they claim to represent. The change of strategy seems to indicate they are fully aware of their perilous situation, yet they remain unquestionably unwilling to let up on their radicalism. “When people hear us say abortion is just another medical procedure, they react with shock,” Frances Kissling, former president of Catholics for Choice, is quoted as saying in the *Time* piece. “Abortion is not like having your tooth pulled or having your appendix out. It involves the termination of an early form of human life. That deserves some gravitas.”

That is the Catch-22 confronting the abortion movement: the unborn child can be taken away from a woman’s body far more easily than it can be blotted out of her heart and mind. Neither nuanced rhetoric about the complicated nature of abortion, nor hip younger leaders will ever change that.

# Planned Parenthood Aborts “Pro-Choice” Label *Chooses “Nuanced” Deception*

Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D. and Mario Diaz, Esq.

As the United States — with over a million abortions a year, one of the highest abortion rates among Western industrialized nations<sup>1</sup> — prepares to recognize the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision, abortion activists are quietly launching a new public relations strategy. Planned Parenthood, after admitting to selected reporters<sup>2</sup> that the “pro-choice” label has lost its appeal as we transition out of the feminist age, is moving to more “nuanced” language that conveys the “complicated” nature of abortion. The need for an abortion, claims Planned Parenthood, is “situational” and “depends on an individual’s circumstances.”<sup>3</sup> Since no one else can know those situations or circumstances, Planned Parenthood has declared (with its superior standards of morality) that it is “wrong to make a judgment” about aborting a baby.

It appears that Planned Parenthood is responding to the fact that, according to a Gallup poll, Americans now tilt pro-life by nine percentage points, polling 50 percent pro-life to 41 percent pro-choice — a record low for pro-choice support.<sup>4</sup> Even more ominous is the fact that 42 anti-abortion measures were enacted in 25 states during 2012.<sup>5</sup> One abortion advocate described the pro-life victories as “death by a thousand tiny cuts.”<sup>6</sup> As a result, abortion advocates are facing criticisms in their own camp that they are “tone-deaf” to the “current reality.” Former NARAL president Nancy Keenan, in a stark assessment of the pro-choice movement, said it suffered from “waning enthusiasm and aging leadership,” whereas the expanding pro-life movement is “energetic and intense.”<sup>7</sup> Their own critics acknowledge that abortion advocates are out of step even with their own constituency, saying that the abortion industry’s extreme positions and their radicalism have alienated all but the die-hard, unquestioning loyalists and caused those in the uncommitted middle to avoid being associated with the label “pro-choice.”

A Planned Parenthood official described the “pro-choice” label as “frivolous,”<sup>8</sup> and even Frances Kissling, former president of Catholics for Choice, lamented its lack of “gravitas.”<sup>9</sup> Apparently, their “bigger tent” reasoning goes like this: Since they cannot get enough women to embrace the “pro-choice” position, and since they face increasingly effective and strategic pro-life activists, why not broaden the “pro-choice” label to embrace the “complexity” of contemporary women’s lives and decision-making? With enough such gobbledygook, women won’t have to confront the tragic reality and finality of the abortion “choice.” Also importantly, a nuanced “choice” position will be harder to poll as *the* sole contrast to the pro-life position.

The new advertising approach using “soft” language for a harsh reality is, of course, not all that new: abortion advocates and most media continue to use terms like “fetus” to avoid acknowledging the unborn baby in the womb. Instead of calling RU-486 and other abortifacients “abortion drugs,” the softer term used by the abortion industry is “pregnancy-terminating medication.” At the U.N. and elsewhere, abortion is still referred to as “reproductive health services.” Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest abortion provider, still spends millions on

glossy brochures advertising their “health services,” calling their organization a “trusted health care provider” that provides a “wide range of safe, reliable health care.”<sup>10</sup>

Their new “Not in Her Shoes” campaign emphasizes the importance of being non-judgmental; after all, we are not in someone else’s shoes. Thus, Planned Parenthood’s ad features one student who rejects the idea of “defining one another” or putting labels on “this term” (abortion) that “don’t even make sense.” Another student wants to avoid putting “people in boxes” because “abortion is not a boxed-in issue,” so it is not, says the student, “fair” to put a woman “in a box” because she decides to have an abortion. A third student goes more universal and philosophical, declaring *Roe* to be a “symbol of progress for our nation;” therefore, we should remove all the labels and “move towards a notion of reproductive justice and equality.”<sup>11</sup>

The bottom line is that Planned Parenthood has calculated that it is losing the abortion battle on the issues and, therefore, they will go warm and fuzzy, rather than put forward logical, factual arguments. One writer described the goal as wrapping advocacy in “rhetorical gauze to soften the blow.”<sup>12</sup> They will talk about being non-judgmental, not putting people or issues in boxes, and they will appeal to “reproductive justice and equality” in order to broaden their agenda to address what they view as related issues (child care, homosexual rights, health insurance, and economic opportunity). Their new campaign is based on polling that indicates that two-thirds of Americans want abortion to remain legal and 40 percent believe that approval of an abortion “depends on the situation.”<sup>13</sup> With nearly 30 percent of the public falling in the “ambivalent middle” on controversial issues, Planned Parenthood has crafted a strategy to grab that ambivalence and turn it into support for a deliberately hazy concept so that each person can shape their attitude toward abortion into whatever contours fit their preference.

This current strategy is based on the idea that it’s just the wrong words that cause the problems facing abortion advocates — in other words, abortion in and of itself is not the problem; that is to say, the realities of abortion are not the problem; it is just the *way* they’re talking about abortion. Planned Parenthood, and the abortion industry in general, seems to think that they can continue to operate with less regulation than veterinary clinics, treat women with less care and follow-up than a beautician, and everything will be fine as long as they use more nuanced words in their advertising and public relations brochures. Their new approach, explains Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards, uses phrases like these: “Only you know what it’s like to walk in your shoes,” and “Decisions about reproductive health are personal. You can help keep them that way.”<sup>14</sup> These phrases are the same deceptions that have misled abortion clients in the past. While the ideas are disguised in new language, they are capable of the same pain that has damaged millions of women since *Roe*. The message is new, but the reality remains the same.

This new approach seems to be even more directly exploit women when they are most vulnerable by suggesting that nobody understands their situation, that they are completely alone. Instead of offering support and coming alongside women going through desperate situations and, perhaps, bringing along other women who have indeed gone through similar situations, abortion advocates want to reinforce the misconceptions that bring insecurity, doubt, loneliness, and fear in young women by telling them their situation is so unique that abortion is their only option.

Ironically, Planned Parenthood's new deception strategy coincides with a recent cover story in *Time* magazine,<sup>15</sup> reporting that pro-abortion forces have been losing on the abortion issue — both at the federal and, especially, at the state level — in the four decades since *Roe v. Wade* made access to abortion a “constitutional right.” A “right,” by the way, that though feminists continue to tout it as the “crowning achievement of the 20th century women’s movement,” came about when seven male Supreme Court Justices (in what many constitutional scholars view as one of history’s worst judicial rulings) imposed the law by judicial fiat.<sup>16</sup> Now, with the majority of the public holding pro-life beliefs, Planned Parenthood is muddying the rhetorical waters to create what they hope will be an attractive “gray” area between the widely separated pro-life and pro-choice positions. As Steve Ertelt quoted one feminist leader observing, “Most Americans are pro-life with three exceptions: rape, incest, and ‘my situation.’”<sup>17</sup>

Other mainstream media have, likewise, chimed in to note the successes of the pro-life movement. A *Washington Post* article by Sarah Kliff<sup>18</sup> spread the alarm, “It’s never been this frightening before!” Kliff came to similar conclusions as the *Time* magazine article: the pro-life movement’s incremental strategy is working and the pro-abortion movement is in trouble. As Michel New (political science professor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn) noted in a *LifeNews.com* article,<sup>19</sup> both *Time* and the *Washington Post* are worried about “young physicians” who don’t want to provide abortions and “young professionals” who are not interested in “abortion-rights activism.” Prof. New calls attention to the fact that both articles portray abortion advocates as “more pessimistic than they have ever been.” It seems the abortion movement elite leadership is worried that this trend will ultimately translate into a drying of pivotal fundraising streams. This would explain the recent trend to push for more and more taxpayer funding of the abortion cause.

No wonder pro-choice organizations are undergoing a “shake-up” in strategy and personnel and there are efforts afoot to muddy the water on issues of principle and the reality of abortion decisions, procedures, and consequences.

NARAL Pro-Choice America, apparently feeling in a bit of a spot, uses only the acronym for their former name and demands that the media always use all four words of their title every time the organization is mentioned, in an effort to preclude anyone from actually labeling them an abortion organization. Still, they cling to the “pro-choice” label, having just announced their annual “Blog for Choice Day” and their campaign, “Choice Out Loud,” as well as a “report on the state of choice” called “Who Decides?”<sup>20</sup> Even so, they recognize that they are out of step with the public; they made a public statement defending choice, calling it a “powerful tool” and a term that they use to describe themselves and their work. They make a point of saying they don’t ask others to “wear a label.”<sup>21</sup> They have chosen to react differently from Planned Parenthood as they seek to “solidify” their base and “expand its reach;” they’ve chosen a new, younger president, Ilyse Hogue,<sup>22</sup> to replace Nancy Keenan as head of the organization. Hogue’s resumé (showing her past affiliations with “progressive” powerhouses like MoveOn.org and Media Matters) illustrates the tight link between the pro-choice forces, leftist think tanks, and the Democratic Party. In her press statement, Miss Hogue promised to “engage a new generation of

young people in the conversation about what choice means in a modern age.” In her remarks, she also continued the fabrication that “most Americans share” pro-choice values.

Pro-lifers have always pointed out that the “pro-choice” branding is purposely misleading; women generally choose abortion when they think they don’t have a choice. Often the woman is told that if she does not “get rid of the problem,” the man is “out of there.”<sup>23</sup> Many women are painfully conflicted by their “choice” to abort their unborn child and recognize on some basic level that their “choice” is “wrong.” In fact, the *Time* article chillingly observes that in abortion clinics, “Eye contact can be hard to come by.” The situation is not helped by the atmosphere at the clinics. The *Time* article noted about one abortion clinic, “The whirring of the vacuum aspirator used to extract the fetus can be heard in the hallway.” They also note, “In journals scattered throughout the clinic in which women are invited to express their feelings, patients write about non-supportive husbands and boyfriends.” In their discomfort, fear, and innate guilt, they write to “ask God for forgiveness.” Planned Parenthood does not deal with that aspect of women’s health. Where is their concern about that?

Indeed, Supreme Court Justice Kennedy, writing in *Gonzalez v. Carhart*, the partial-birth abortion case, powerfully acknowledged the pain many women feel after an abortion when they learn the grim realities of the procedure:

It is self-evident that a mother who comes to regret her choice to abort must struggle with grief more anguished and sorrow more profound when she learns, only after the event, what she once did not know: that she allowed a doctor to pierce the skull and vacuum the fast-developing brain of her unborn child . ...<sup>24</sup>

Instead of focusing on these hurting women and what is best for *all* women, the “pro-choice” groups are perpetuating the myth that “most” Americans are on their side in pushing taxpayer-funded abortion-on-demand all the time, for any reason, without any restrictions or regulation. Obviously, the “pro-choice” activists hurt their cause when they are so unreasonable and oppose any and all restrictions on abortion; for instance, Gallup Data shows that 60 percent of supposedly “pro-choice” Americans support waiting periods and parental consent laws, but pro-choice organizations actively work against such laws. In addition, they oppose reasonable regulations that require doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at hospitals (thus appropriate credentials) to ensure women’s safety.<sup>25</sup>

When groups like Planned Parenthood and NARAL are so out of step with their own constituencies and the general public as well, it is little wonder that they are struggling to find an effective message and a way to rally their troops. Reliable statistics from multiple sources show that the pro-choice position is losing ground, yet activists, along with a sympathetic media, continue to claim that feminist objectives are succeeding through the “coordinated efforts of women’s organizations, women lawyers and *all women*” (emphasis ours). Obviously, pro-choice organizations do not represent most women, much less, “all” women, nor are “all” women involved in promoting feminist objectives.

The Left seems to have abandoned all substantive, fact-based arguments in their new strategies to win public support. While Planned Parenthood focuses on language initiatives and NARAL on younger-generation leadership, they are fighting an uphill battle. False claims of success (even in the face of objective evidence to the contrary) are used to promote expansions of the right to abortion, reject any and all reasonable restrictions to abortion, and to promote new campaigns and strategies to deceive women into supporting the pro-choice abortion objectives. False and/or illogical arguments also weaken the case for the abortion advocates. *Time* points out that while a baby born as early as 24 weeks can now survive, some abortions occur after that time, and some pro-abortionists have tried to make the distinction that the pre-born baby is not a “person.” In fact, *Roe*’s whole argument rests on that one assertion. Justice Harry Blackmun, who authored the decision, said clearly that, “If this suggestion of personhood is established, [*Roe*’s] case, of course, collapses, for the fetus’ right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the [Fourteenth] Amendment.”<sup>26</sup> Also, some abortion advocates determine viability to be at the point when a pre-born baby is no longer dependent on the mother, even though newborns — even toddlers and older children — are still dependent.

As noted in *Children at Risk*:

“The abortion industry has an increasingly difficult problem with finding doctors to staff abortion clinics. Between 1992 and 2005, the number of facilities providing abortions in the United States decreased by 25 percent in part because they could not get enough doctors to provide the abortions; more and more physicians are refusing to perform abortions. By 2005 over 87 percent of U.S. counties had no abortion provider. Some medical schools are seeking legal recourse to require abortion training because too many medical students are declining to become licensed for the procedure.”<sup>27</sup>

When confronted about doctors being unwilling to perform abortions, abortion activists typically shift the conversation to talk about not being able to afford to keep abortion clinic doors open and the necessity for government-funded abortion (in reality, taxpayer-funding — even from those who have religious convictions against abortion, thus violating religious freedom). The truth is that technology has revealed the reality that contradicts their rhetoric; now doctors and patients can see inside the womb, and they recognize what they see as a yet-to-be-born baby. Those mothers-to-be who *want* their baby post the sonogram images on the refrigerator door; those mothers-to-be who opted for abortion look away from the thumb-sucking or smiling pictures from the womb. This is the main reason they are adamantly against providing women with sonograms. They simply do not want them to know the truth.

Abortionists also recognize that as business declines at their clinics, crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) are springing up everywhere. As reported in *Children at Risk*: “There were only five hundred CPCs across the United States in 1980. By 1990, there were an estimated two thousand; now there are at least four thousand (more than double the number of abortion clinics).” At a time when unaffiliated abortion clinics run by doctors and hospitals are disappearing, Planned Parenthood’s abortion business is booming. Last year, they performed a record high 333,964



abortions, while their screening and prevention services dropped by nearly 30 percent (29%).<sup>28</sup> No doubt the cover provided by their reputation for “reproductive health” and the overly-generous support from government grants enables Planned Parenthood to thrive, while less deceptive abortion clinics without government largess cannot survive. No wonder Planned Parenthood wants to be even more nuanced (or conning) in their rhetoric, continues to talk (falsely) about providing mammograms (no Planned Parenthood clinics have the licenses or the expensive machines required to provide breast cancer screening — there’s little to no profit to be had<sup>29</sup>), and promotes the myth of being primarily a “women’s health facility.”

In a report, “Cutting the Cord,”<sup>30</sup> Concerned Women for America (CWA) summarizes exposés from LiveAction that have revealed numerous unsavory details about the operation of Planned Parenthood clinics, including advising underage girls to lie about their age and the age of their boyfriend and protecting pimps involved in child sex trafficking. CWA’s report documents cases of clinics not reporting underage rape and abuse. More than 100 criminal charges were brought against clinics, including “felony charges of late-term abortions and falsifying documents.” Fraud and financial abuse charges — to the tune of millions of dollars — have been leveled at Planned Parenthood for alleged misuse of taxpayer funds and overcharging the government. Undercover videos revealing other unsavory aspects of Planned Parenthood’s dealings with clients (such as advising how to falsify birth dates to avoid triggering a mandatory police report of statutory rape) have shocked and appalled the public, while most of the mainstream media have ignored the evidence and refused to report the problems.

Many Americans are shocked to learn that Planned Parenthood, while promoting itself as a non-profit women’s health center, is the nation’s largest abortion provider, with a multimillion-dollar annual profit. In their latest annual report, analyzed by the Susan B. Anthony List,<sup>31</sup> Planned Parenthood showed an increase in the number of abortions in 2011-2012 for the first time in two decades, for a record-high 333,964 abortions. Other services declined: contraceptive services by 12 percent and cancer screening and prevention services by 29 percent. Federal funding for Planned Parenthood was also at a record high, with “\$542 million in government grants, contracts and Medicaid reimbursements, totaling 45.2 percent of the group’s annual revenue.” Planned Parenthood, according to Charmaine Yoest,<sup>32</sup> President and CEO of Americans United for Life, functions under an “abortion-centered business model” that now requires “every affiliate to operate at least one clinic that performs abortions.”

The sheer number of abortions is staggering and appalling — reports indicate the number by Planned Parenthood at an abortion every 94 seconds<sup>33</sup> — repudiating any suggestion that Planned Parenthood exists to promote women’s health. In the *Time* magazine article, a trio of pictures showed signs hanging in the waiting room of a Planned Parenthood clinic. Along with two signs meant to build self-esteem in women, there was one with the cliché, “Well-behaved women rarely make history,” — an appallingly insensitive and callous, yet chillingly calculated, sign to be viewed by women burdened by conflicting emotions, guilt, and apprehension — who are about to undergo an abortion. The saying is, of course, a not-so-subtle implication that the girls in the waiting room — by not being “well-behaved,” as evidenced by their pregnancy and abortion decision — are among those women who are going to “make history.”

According to Rep. Diane Black (R-Tennessee), “Abortions make up 92 percent of Planned Parenthood’s pregnancy services, while prenatal care and adoption referrals account for less than 8 percent.”<sup>34</sup> Obviously, Planned Parenthood’s financial survival is dependent upon the funds brought in by that 92 percent of abortion services; no wonder they are cloaking their radical agenda with “nuanced” language and rhetoric that makes abortion more palatable. However, the evidence is clear; they are as radical as ever, perhaps even more so. In fact, as noted earlier, the abortion activists are expanding “reproductive rights” to include “reproductive justice” and to broaden their support base they are aligning their efforts with efforts like the anti-bullying campaigns by homosexual rights activists.

The anti-bullying campaign is ironic, given the public bullying that went on during the 2012 presidential election regarding the “War on Women” meme — all designed to promote taxpayer-funding of abortion and contraception. Remember Sandra Fluke, the overage law student who needed \$3,000-a-year in taxpayer money to pay for contraceptives for her sexual encounters? The hokey “War on Women” campaign was clearly launched to distract attention away from substantive campaign issues and President Obama’s first-term record by shifting the public conversation to the bogus need for taxpayer-funded contraceptives. Pro-life activists pointed out that free and/or low-cost contraceptives are available in clinics on almost every inner-city block, but the facts were irrelevant; women were deceived once again and overwhelmingly voted for Obama because they believed the availability of contraceptives was threatened. The ones truly threatened by the “War on Women” campaign effort — successful though it was in re-electing the president — were Americans of faith and all those Americans who value freedom of speech and religious liberty.

At the same time that Planned Parenthood talks about “reproductive justice,” they target minority women for abortions: Black women have 3.5 times the abortion rate of White women, and while Blacks make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, they have 35 percent of the nation’s abortions. Further, research by Protecting Black Life (an outreach of Life Issues Institute)<sup>35</sup> reports that nearly 80 percent (79%) of Planned Parenthood’s surgical abortion facilities “are located within walking distance” of Black and/or Hispanic neighborhoods. In addition, ironically, over half (51%) of Planned Parenthood’s “family planning clinics” are in minority neighborhoods.

While pro-choice activists claim a desperate need for abortion-on-demand to save a woman’s life, the facts stubbornly reveal that women say they want an abortion for reasons unrelated to health. According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, there are three primary reasons women give for choosing abortion. About three-fourths say a baby would interfere with their work, school or other responsibilities. About three-fourths say they cannot afford to have a baby, and about half do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with the father of the baby. The National Abortion Federation reports that only 12 percent of women claim a health problem is causing them to seek an abortion, and only one percent report that the baby was conceived in rape.<sup>36</sup>

The *Time* magazine article reveals the same conclusion. One woman gave her and her partner's rationale for having an abortion as: "Neither of us is near baby time. ..." In other words, having a baby would be inconvenient and cause problems between the potential mother and father. After all, the woman reported: they even argue about whose turn it is to take out the dog. Pro-lifers argue that having a baby helps couples grow up into mature, responsible adults. Abortion advocates shift the debate from the norm — having an abortion because a baby would be inconvenient — to argue about "hot button" sorts of issues, such as whether women should be "forced" to have a child conceived in rape (as noted above, only about one percent of abortions). The *Time* piece also acknowledges this part of the deception:

The abortion war, like many other political fights, is largely waged on the margins of reality. Review the policies that have stoked widespread national debate and it's easy to assume that late-term abortions and those performed on underage girls or women impregnated by rape or incest constitute the bulk of terminated pregnancies. In truth, these are mere slivers of the abortion story in America.

Other uncomfortable facts that abortion advocates try to avoid are the repeat abortions. As reported in *Children at Risk*: More than half of the women who seek an abortion already have at least one child; more than a third already have two or more children. Between 8 to 10 percent of women having abortions have had multiple abortions — as many as three or more — to the point of using abortion as a form of birth control. Over time, the percent of repeat abortions has increased, to the point that (as already noted) over half of all abortions are performed on women who have had previous abortions. Tragically, we have come to the point that one in three women will have an abortion by age 45.<sup>37</sup>

While the entertainment industry and abortion activists portray abortion as a "minor procedure that resolves a major problem,"<sup>38</sup> the facts tell a different story. We do a grave disservice to women to falsely reassure them despite the potential complications, leaving them to deal with the unforeseen consequences when they are often "not even aware of the worst possible complications." A study in Finland, using official government data, showed associations (there is no way to show causality) between abortion and dire outcomes: in a one-year study, abortion was 3.5 times deadlier than childbirth, suicide was seven times higher among post-abortive women, and deaths from homicide were four times higher among post-abortive women.<sup>39</sup> A British study (published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*) reviewed over one hundred international studies and found a link between abortion and mental health problems.<sup>40</sup>

Obviously, not all women suffer serious consequences from abortion, but abortion activists are unwilling to be rational or even truthfully acknowledge possible consequences; nor are they willing to fully inform women of the possible dangers. Problems are so prevalent, in fact, there is a medical designation: "post-abortion syndrome." Abortion advocates have gone to great lengths to discredit the evidence linking abortion and breast cancer. They point to nearly a dozen articles denying the link; yet a peer-reviewed analysis of those articles, published in the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, points out serious methodological weaknesses and flaws

in the studies denying a link, concluding that there is, indeed, an increased risk for breast cancer after an abortion.<sup>41</sup>

Another disturbing aspect of today's abortion problem is the so-called "therapeutic" abortion. At least "92 percent of babies found in prenatal testing to have Down Syndrome are aborted," and at least 73 percent (some researchers believe the rate is 80 to 100 percent) of unborn babies believed to have neural tube defects, such as spina bifida, are aborted. There are numerous reports of women being pressured to undergo prenatal testing in order to "diagnose disorders or undesirable disabilities early," so that the mother can "easily undergo an abortion." In effect, the doctors and abortion advocates are playing God and "saying that human beings born with physical and mental disabilities are not fit to live."<sup>42</sup>

There is also the ugly contradiction between the fact that abortion is being "sold" as a matter of "women's rights," when at the same time the more frequent target of abortion is the "girl child" in the womb. Obviously, these two alternatives are mutually exclusive — you cannot embrace abortion and then turn around to condemn sex-selection abortions. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported in 2007 that there were, at that time, at least 60 million "missing" girls as a result of sex-selection abortions or neglect of the girl child.<sup>43</sup>

As mentioned briefly earlier in this paper, abortion activists oppose any and all limitations on abortion. *Time* magazine points out that the abortion activists oppose "nearly all abortion-specific regulations." The article points out that they even took exception to a law in North Dakota which has a reasonable definition of abortion: "terminating the life of a whole, separate, unique living human being." It seems they want to keep perpetuating the myth that the pre-born baby is not a potential human being. Science and technology have shown us vivid pictures of the humanity of the pre-born, and that, in turn, has undermined the arguments that the pro-choice establishment made at the time of *Roe*. Actually, in *Roe*, Justice Blackmun acknowledged at the beginning of the opinion the "vigorous opposing views, even among physicians,"<sup>44</sup> as to the nature of the child in the womb. That alone should have prompted the Court to back away from taking sides among physicians. Yet, blinded by political activism, they took a side, and scientific technology has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that they chose wrong. It is, indeed, a child in a mother's womb.

The *Time* magazine article makes it chillingly obvious that Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry are driven by bottom-line financial considerations and that, in spite of the caring rhetoric on their PR materials, their concern for the health and well-being of women is minimal. *Time* describes the treatment of a woman in a Planned Parenthood clinic who decides she doesn't want birth control after an abortion. The abortionist just "runs through a few ancillary health benefits of birth control anyway, hands the woman some condoms and pats her shoulder." Another woman who had conflicting feelings about her possible abortion and the abortionist "gives her prenatal vitamins and sends her home." The poor woman obviously needed help! But that is not Planned Parenthood's business. No wonder the article said, "The woman returns a week later. This time she does not change her mind." Mission accomplished; child eliminated.

Note that the description of Planned Parenthood's cavalier treatment of women who don't contribute to their profits is from the reporters at *Time* magazine, not from pro-life activists.

Despite the fact that there are now more crisis pregnancy centers than abortion clinics, Planned Parenthood pushes the idea that women facing abortion are alone, that nobody understands them, and abortion is a quick fix without consequences. They convince the girl or woman that the abortion solution means their nightmare of an unwanted pregnancy will soon be over, and nobody will be hurt. Of course, all these fallacies have been debunked through the years; numerous women have spoken out, telling how the pain is felt and never forgotten.

The pro-life message is that women in a crisis pregnancy are not alone; they have choices, including adoption, and help is available through crisis pregnancy centers, churches, and communities. Many of the women at crisis pregnancy centers have actually gone through similar experiences, and now they can help others make better choices.

Churches, counselors, and caring communities can convince the girls and women that their lives are not over, and they can still realize their dreams. These very committed people truly care about women, and they know that God can redeem any situation, no matter how difficult, and turn it into good for those who believe and trust His grace and mercy.

Margaret Cho, a stand-up comic who is ardently pro-abortion, even militantly so, described pregnancy in a way that is more revealing than she intended. She said, "Pregnancy feels like there is somebody in there." Not something, but "somebody." With callous indifference, she went on to say about her own abortion, "The tenant was evacuated."<sup>45</sup> Abortion advocates are being forced to face the reality that women don't move on and forget an experience like that. The "Silent No More" campaign, which has given increased visibility to thousands of women who regret their abortions, has also helped expose the term "pro-choice." The experiences of post-abortive girls and women, combined with the facts about the child in the womb revealed by science and technology, are changing America's view of abortion. "One study tracked seventy-five patients and all but five changed their minds about an abortion after seeing a sonogram of their baby in the womb."<sup>46</sup> Even the cynical and hardened Cho revealed that her abortion left her feeling "hollowed out and alone."

This is the Catch-22 confronting the abortion movement: the unborn child can be "evicted" from a woman's body far more easily than it can be blotted out of her heart and mind. As women experience the pain of abortion firsthand — suppressed or not — or even if they just see the complicated, conflicted emotions of a friend after an abortion, the truth cannot be contained. Neither nuanced rhetoric about the complicated nature of abortion, nor hip younger leaders are enough to sustain a movement which, at its heart, is characterized by "hollowed-out emptiness."

*Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D., author of Children at Risk (Transaction, 2010) and Marriage Matters (Transaction, 2012) is Senior Fellow at Concerned Women for America's Beverly LaHaye Institute.*

*Mario Diaz, Esq. is Legal Counsel and Director of Legal Studies for Concerned Women for America.*

## **ENDNOTES**

- <sup>1</sup>Janice Shaw Crouse, *Children at Risk*, (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2010): 71.
- <sup>2</sup>Jill Stanek, "Planned Parenthood Abandons 'Pro-Choice' Term on Abortion," LifeNews.com, January 11, 2013, <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/01/11/planned-parenthood-abandons-pro-choice-term-on-abortion/>.
- <sup>3</sup>Katherine Connell, "Planned Parenthood to Embrace a No-Labels Strategy," The Corner blog, *National Review OnLine*, January 11, 2013, <http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/337526/planned-parenthood-embrace-no-labels-strategy-katherine-connell>.
- <sup>4</sup>Lydia Saad, "'Pro-Choice' Americans at Record-Low 41%," Gallup Poll, May 23, 2012, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/154838/pro-choice-americans-record-low.aspx>.
- <sup>5</sup>Esmé E. Deprez, "How State Governments Are Regulating Away Abortion," *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, January 17, 2013, <http://www.businessweek.com/printer/articles/91908-how-state-governments-are-regulating-away-abortion>.
- <sup>6</sup>As reported by Steven Ertelt, "Roe v. Wade at 40: We Must Never Give Up Fighting Abortion," LifeNews.com, January 18, 2013, <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/01/18/roe-v-wade-at-40-we-must-never-give-up-fighting-abortion/?pr=1>.
- <sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>8</sup>Christina Martin, "Planned Parenthood's No Longer 'Pro-Choice,' But Should We Even Care?" LiveActionNews.org, January 13, 2013, <http://liveactionnews.org/planned-parenthoods-no-longer-pro-choice-but-should-we-even-care/>.
- <sup>9</sup>Dave Andrusko, "What's Behind the 'Rebellion Within the Abortion-Rights Cause?'" *NRL News Today*, January 7, 2013, <http://www.nationalrighttolifenews.org/news/2013/01/whats-behind-the-rebellion-within-the-abortion-rights-cause/#.UPn3kBi7To>.
- <sup>10</sup>From Planned Parenthood's website: <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/who-we-are-4648.htm>.
- <sup>11</sup>"Moving Beyond Pro-Life vs. Pro-Choice Labels, You're 'Not in Her Shoes,'" Notinershoes.Org., Planned Parenthood, January 15, 2013, [http://www.ppaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pp\\_ppol\\_notinershoes#.UPn8vx1i7Tp](http://www.ppaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pp_ppol_notinershoes#.UPn8vx1i7Tp) and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hVSFh\\_xss&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hVSFh_xss&feature=youtu.be).
- <sup>12</sup>Andrusko, "What's Behind the Rebellion."
- <sup>13</sup>Planned Parenthood, "Moving Beyond."
- <sup>14</sup>Katie J. M. Baker, "Planned Parenthood Steers Clear of 'Choice' and 'Life,'" Jezebel.com, January 10, 2013, <http://jezebel.com/5974798/planned-parenthood-steers-clear-of-choice-and-life>.
- <sup>15</sup>Kate Pickert, "What Choice," *Time Magazine*, January 14, 2013.
- <sup>16</sup>"What the Legal Scholars Say About *Roe v. Wade*," United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, undated, <http://old.usccb.org/prolife/issues/abortion/roevwade/LegalSchol.pdf>.
- <sup>17</sup>Ertelt, "*Roe v. Wade* at 40."
- <sup>18</sup>Sarah Kliff, "*Roe* at 40: 'It's Never Been This Frightening Before,'" *The Washington Post*, January 14, 2013, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/01/14/roe-at-40-its-never-been-this-frightening-before/?print=1>.
- <sup>19</sup>Michael New, "After 40 Years of Abortion, Pro-Lifers are Making Progress," LifeNews.com, January 16, 2013, <http://www.lifenews.com/2013/01/16/after-40-years-of-abortion-pro-lifers-are-making-progress/?pr=1>.
- <sup>20</sup>Tarek Rizk, "On the Language of Choice," Blog for Choice, NARAL Pro-Choice America, January 17, 2013, <http://www.blogforchoice.com/>.
- <sup>21</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>22</sup>Kathryn Smith, "Llyse Hogue Announced as New NARAL President," *Politico*, January 14, 2013, <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/ilyse-hogue-announced-as-new-naral-president-86158.html>.
- <sup>23</sup>Crouse, *Children at Risk*, 73.

- <sup>24</sup> Rebecca Dresser, "From Double Standard to Double Bind: Informed Choice in Abortion Law," *The George Washington Law Review*, 76 no. 6 (September 2008):1600-1601, <http://groups.law.gwu.edu/lr/articlepdf/76-6-dresser.pdf>.
- <sup>25</sup> R. Albert Mohler, Jr., "Losing Ever Since Roe? Time Sounds the Siren for Abortion Rights," *Baptist Press*, January 10, 2013, <http://www.brnow.org/Opinions/Guest-Columns/January-2013/Losing-ever-since-Roe-%E2%80%93-TIME-sounds-the-siren-for.aspx>.
- <sup>26</sup> *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 156-57 (1973).
- <sup>27</sup> Crouse, *Children at Risk*, 80.
- <sup>28</sup> *Planned Parenthood Annual Report 2012*, <http://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/annual-report-4661.htm>.
- <sup>29</sup> Keith Reiler, "Why Planned Parenthood Won't Provide Mammograms," *FirstThings.com*, October 24, 2012, <http://www.firstthings.com/onthesquare/2012/10/why-planned-parenthood-won't-provide-mammograms>.
- <sup>30</sup> Janice Shaw Crouse, "Cutting the Cord: The Case for DeFunding Planned Parenthood," *Concerned Women for America*, February 2011, [http://www.cwfa.org/familyvoice/2011-02/FamilyVoiceInsight\\_February2011.pdf](http://www.cwfa.org/familyvoice/2011-02/FamilyVoiceInsight_February2011.pdf).
- <sup>31</sup> Susan B. Anthony List, "Fact Sheet: Planned Parenthood's Annual Report 2011-2012," [http://www.sba-list.org/sites/default/files/content/shared/pp\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2011\\_2012\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.sba-list.org/sites/default/files/content/shared/pp_fact_sheet_2011_2012_annual_report.pdf).
- <sup>32</sup> Charmaine Yoest, "AUL Notes that Planned Parenthood Now Received Approximately \$1.5 Million Dollars a Day in Taxpayer Funding as Reported in its 2011-2012 Annual Report," *Americans United for Life*, January 8, 2013, <http://www.aul.org/2013/01/aul-notes-that-planned-parenthood-now-receives-approximately-1-5-million-dollars-a-day-in-taxpayer-funding-as-reported-in-its-2011-2012-annual-report/>.
- <sup>33</sup> Penny Starr, "Planned Parenthood's New Annual Report: We Did 333,964 Abortions; 1 every 94 seconds," *CNS News*, January 7, 2013, <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/planned-parenhoods-new-annual-report-we-did-333964-abortions-1-every-94-seconds>.
- <sup>34</sup> Rep. Diane Black, "Black's Statement on Planned Parenthood Annual Report," January 8, 2013, <http://black.house.gov/press-release/black%E2%80%99s-statement-planned-parenthood-annual-report>.
- <sup>35</sup> Brad Mattes, "Planned Parenthood's Annual Report Reveals Dominance of Abortion Services," *Life Issues Institute*, January 8, 2013, [www.lifeissues.org/press/203/pr01-08-13.html](http://www.lifeissues.org/press/203/pr01-08-13.html).
- <sup>36</sup> "U.S. Abortion Statistics: Facts and figures relating to the frequency of abortion in the United States," *Abortion73.com*, [http://www.abort73.com/abortion\\_facts/us\\_abortion\\_statistics/](http://www.abort73.com/abortion_facts/us_abortion_statistics/).
- <sup>37</sup> Crouse, *Children at Risk*, 75.
- <sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, 76.
- <sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*, 77.
- <sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, 77.
- <sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, 78.
- <sup>43</sup> Janice Shaw Crouse, "The United Nations Abortion Dilemma," *Townhall.com*, March 2, 2007, [http://townhall.com/columnists/janiceshawcrouse/2007/03/02/the\\_united\\_nations\\_abortion\\_dilemma/page/full/](http://townhall.com/columnists/janiceshawcrouse/2007/03/02/the_united_nations_abortion_dilemma/page/full/).
- <sup>44</sup> *Roe*, 410 U.S. 113, 116 (1973).
- <sup>45</sup> Crouse, *Children at Risk*, 80.
- <sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, 74.