

Face off: Measure 43, is it fair?

Measure 43 would do more harm than good

Tayo Stalnakar
Commentary Editor

Measure 43 would do absolutely nothing to stop abortion.

What Measure 43 would do is make life even harder for teenage girls and their parents, force doctors to break patient confidentiality, increase the chance of lawsuits and increase the possibility of more babies being brought into the world by people who either don't want them or don't have the financial and emotional stability to raise children.

There are many teenage girls in this country who have little to no communication with their parents because of abusive living situations. The lives of these teenagers are hard enough, and making a doctor send a letter telling the abusive parents that their daughter wants an abortion could very likely result in a violent reaction from the parents.

Currently, Oregon law allows teenagers ages 15 to 17 to go to the doctor with full confidentiality. The reason for this is because, according to the state of

Oregon, 15 year olds are considered old enough to be able to receive medical attention privately. This confidentiality would become non-existent, in terms of teenage girls getting abortions, if Measure 43 passes.

One of the major issues with Measure 43 is the fact that it doesn't contain exceptions for rape and incest. Supporters of the law will try and say that it does because the law would allow for a teenage girl to go to court and plead to the judge to allow her to get an abortion. This really doesn't solve anything. Going to court takes time and money, and with pregnancy, every minute counts. Furthermore, as the *Oregonian* said in their editorial against Measure 43, nobody should have to beg their government for health care.

Another problem with Measure 43 is its harsh penalties towards doctors if

they don't send the parents the letter of notification within 48 hours. If for some reason they don't send it within the allotted time, they will probably get their license revoked and more than likely sued by the parents. Doctors are very busy people, and Measure 43 just gives them more red tape and grief to deal with.

Measure 43 is a pointless, flawed bill that would solve nothing. Everyone should vote NO on 43 this November.

Teenage girls aren't ready to tackle abortion alone

Elizabeth Hitz
The Clackamas Print

Fifteen. That is the current age young women are allowed to get an abortion without contacting their parents.

Do you remember what you were like at fifteen? How often confusing the world seemed, and how often your judgment reflected the immaturity of teenhood?

Teenagers, especially girls, need guidance, but more than that, they need the support and love of

their parents when faced with a life-changing decision.

Make no mistake, abortion is life-changing. In a study on post-abortion stress conducted by Dr. Anne Speckhard at the University of Minnesota, Speckhard found that, "after five to 10 years, 54 percent of mothers choosing abortion had nightmares, 81 percent had preoccupation with their aborted child, 35 percent had perceived visitations with their child, and 96 percent felt they had taken a human life."

Abortion is not only life-changing, but it can also be life-ending. Possible complications of the procedure include infection, hemorrhaging and uterine perforation, all of which are common causes of death in abortion patients. And accord-

ing to Dr. Speckhard, "Females between the ages of 15 and 19 have the highest rate of STD's in any age group, male or female."

Measure 43 would require that any girl under 18 give 48-hour written notice to her parents before getting an abortion.

There is even a bypass for victims of rape or incest written into the measure. A private hearing must be set up with an administrative judge, to which the judge must respond within 10 days. This safeguard would allow abuse victims to speak up.

Oregon is one of only six states that does not have some sort of law regarding parental participation or notification when it comes to under-aged abortions.

In the end, it comes down to a few simple questions. Would you want your daughter having an abortion without your knowledge or consent? What if she were to become depressed or suicidal, and you didn't know why?

What if it was your daughter?



Biased instructors can be distracting, affect learning

Matt Olson
The Clackamas Print

Opinions and beliefs are universal, and you will never find an unbiased teacher. The struggle that students have is to keep their objectivity. Ignoring off-handed remarks about politics, controversial issues, or even sports teams is often difficult.

Some teachers use this conflict as a tool to spark debate and inspire change in their students. Sometimes it's just annoying. Personally, I think that biased teachers are a double-edged sword that both sharpens and hurts their students. Their opinions can be inappropriate for the class, and in some instances I feel this has affected my education more than I like to admit.

On the one hand, we have a scholastic environment designed for free thought, which is nurtured by the teachers and staff. On the other, it is designed to inform students about the world, themselves and their peers. The conflict is within the overlap. An open discussion can often be turned into an indoctrination, just as biased questions in a political debate make one side seem more accurate than

the other.

I once took a college writing class where we discussed short stories. One particular piece was an explicit story about a homosexual encounter. The story was obviously written to inspire a debate, but, as the class exchanged opinions, it was also obvious that the teacher was directing the arguments towards one standpoint.

Being stewards of learning, teachers hold a lot of sway over their students. This responsibility is understandably daunting, but the fact remains that students are being influenced.

Is this my problem, or theirs? Is it the responsibility of the teacher to restrain his or her self, or should the students guard against this and take their education with a grain of salt? The problem is not well-defined, and is often ignored.

One of my good friends from high school is now attending a Christian college to get his film degree. Every time he comes back to town, he is more and more adamant about certain indiscretions in the film industry. He has learned to watch movies for their structure, but also passes stronger judgments on movies, often based on the ethics presented in the film

Students need to keep their heads about them while learning. What they learn might affect both their intellectual and moral growth.

Though it seems insignificant, during high school, there was a lot of good-natured competition between Beaver and Duck fans among the faculty. Beaver flags hung from the walls in the math department faculty room, the security office had a big "O" on the window, and when the Civil War rolled around, there was a lot of boasting and joking about the opposing team. Personal fandom among my teachers affected how I learned. I thought that the OSU alumni and fans were thoroughly wrong. My UO loyalty bled through and

affected my perspective of the teachers.

During my tenure as a student, I often recognize these periods of indoctrination and strive to consider all sides of any issue. A biased teacher can affect a person's career, public opinion, and sometimes even laws and policy. The duality

of education is tough to cope with on both fronts, but I believe that this sway professors have is being misused.

Remember that there is never a bad question. If you want to challenge what you learn, do so. Hear what the teacher is telling you, and form an opinion of your own.



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