

Sexual Discrimination in America: Sex-selective Abortion

Testimony against HCR 6

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I'm here to speak against HCR 6. Oregon is the only state in America that has no limits on abortion, and, as such is extreme and out of control. I'm here, before you today, to address a specific type of abortion that is being used in Oregon, sex-selective abortion. This occurs when a parent decides to terminate a pregnancy based on the sex of the unborn child.

The Economist explains, "Sex-selection abortion was once thought confined to certain parts of Asia, but it has spread to other continents and now is practiced here in the United States." Countries that have been practicing this method for many years, like China, are already suffering the results. The natural sex ratio averages 105 boys born for every 100 girls. In 2010, China was already seen with an inflated ratio of 123 boys for every 100 girls. Picture this. A joyous crowd gathered for a celebration. A young man, dressed to the nines, stands at the front, awaiting his bride. He holds his breath, waiting. She never comes. Discover magazine disclosed that "a study has found that there are currently 32 million more boys than girls under the age of 20" in China. This means that at best, 32 million Chinese men will be without Chinese brides their age. This is a ratio that is not normal, a ratio that threatens the natural balance of life, a ratio that will bring future consequences.

The Red State reported that "in a 2011 study, 89% of (U.S.) Asian-Indian participants chose abortion when they found out they were carrying baby girls." What are Americans communicating to the females of the human race? We are telling our little girls that they are not worth as much as little boys. We are telling our little girls that life is a privilege that only some deserve. We are telling our little girls that they are less than a one of a kind masterpiece. In a country that has worked so hard for gender equality, it is tragic to think we might support a

method that is chipping away at the female population. The New York Times released an article that stated in regard to China “sex-selective abortion accounts for almost all the excess males.” Sex-selective abortion began its rise in China when ultrasound and abortion technology became more available to the public, something that is happening in America already. Rich or poor, athletic or artsy, black or white, small or big all women are valuable and should not be treated as anything less.

Americans pride themselves on hearing the voice of the helpless, and yet we will silence a baby’s voice solely based on her sex. Former President Jimmy Carter said, “But except for the times when a mother’s life is in danger or when a pregnancy is caused by rape or incest I would certainly not or never have approved of any abortions.” Sex-selective abortion has nothing to do with rape, incest, or the mother’s health. The Economist reports that in Delhi, during the year 2011, a young medical student crossed paths with a cat running down the hall with a bloody mass clenched in its jaw. The medical student was curious as to what the cat had stolen. Upon further investigation he found the cat had ripped off a piece of a 5-6 month old fetus that was lying on a tray. He was astounded that human life could be treated like this. He questioned the nurse as to the condition of the dead baby. The nurse’s explanation was blunt. She replied, “Because it was a girl.” Humans are worth more than this. Is *this* what we mean when we say, “a woman’s right to choose?” Is sexual discrimination a choice that should be available?

Sex Selective abortion defies the American promise of equality and defies the value of human life. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, That among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” We have the power to protect these rights. We have the

power to ensure these rights are enjoyed by every human being. We have the power to end sexual discrimination in the womb. And yet the question hangs in the air above us: will we? I ask you to vote no on HCR 6 and instead to adopt a ban on sex selection in Oregon. Thank you.

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