

# Abortion

Part 1 of 2

David Zokaites

October 8, 2024

# Acknowledgements

- Thanks to all the people who helped me write this
- Patricia Lucas for editing
- Caring people who thanked me for working this issue
- Those who helped inform me: my daughters, knowledgeable nurses, concerned women with bad pregnancies, misinformed chauvinists, zealots, and many people who paused just to talk

# Confusing Terminology

- Pregnancy counted from first day of last period, but there is no fertilized egg yet, lasts 40 - 44 weeks
- Gestation starts when egg is fertilized at 2 weeks pregnant, normally lasts 38 - 42 weeks
- Gestational age used in this PowerPoint

# Basic Biology

- Male sperm cell penetrates female egg cell
- Fertilized zygote is created, one 0.1 mm cell
- Two weeks later, zygote becomes embryo
- Embryo becomes fetus at 8 weeks, 20 grams, 0.7 ounce
- Fetus becomes baby when born, usually at 9 months
- A zygote is a genetic blueprint that might grow into a complete human if you add many other ingredients

# More Biology

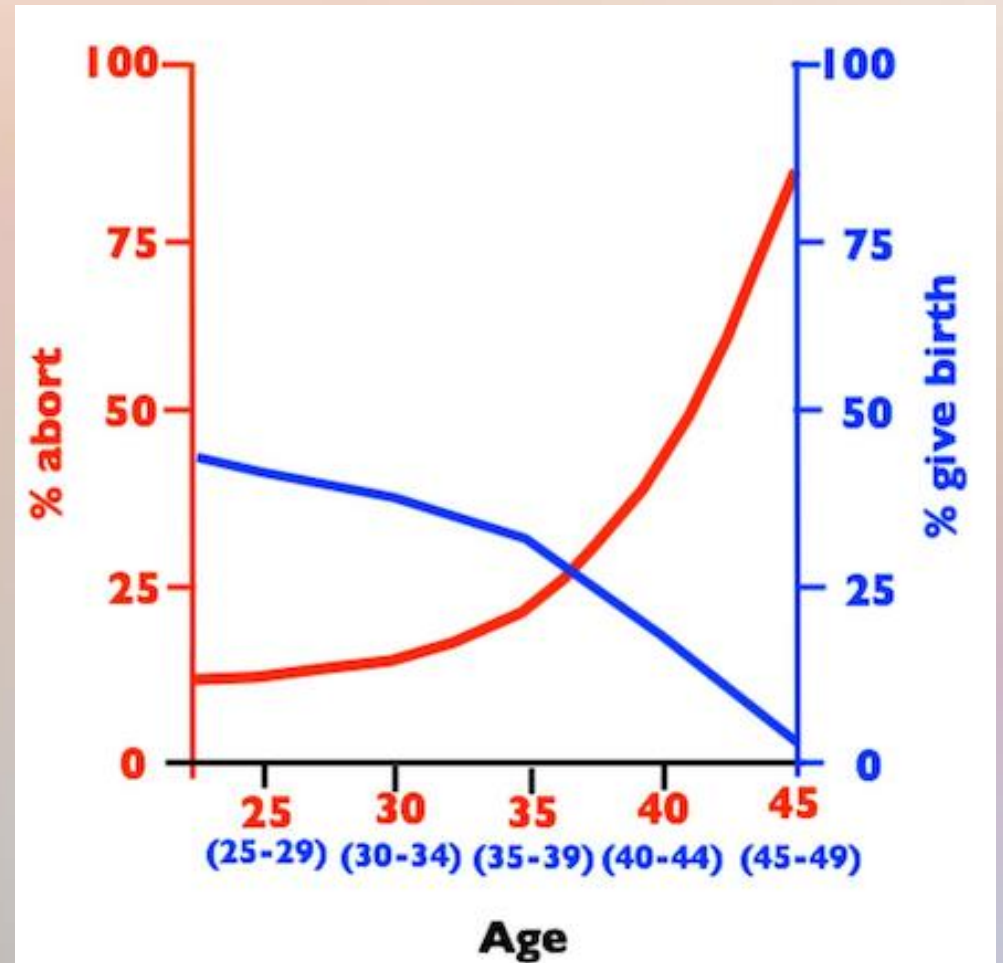
- An embryo is not a baby – not yet
- A fetus is not a baby – not yet
- A fertilized egg is not a child – not yet
- And we're not dead – not yet
- And a blueprint does not create a house – not yet

# Natural Abortions

- Nature aborts most pregnancies
- Nature rejects most defective attempts at reproduction
- Usually occurs without the pregnant woman's awareness

# Miscarriage Rate

- Rate of miscarriage increases with woman's age
- See "The high abortion cost of human reproduction" at <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/372193v1.full>



# Fetal Viability

- Before a fetus is about 24 weeks old, it always dies outside a uterus
- High risk of severe malformations before 26 weeks
- Intensive medical care often withheld before 26 weeks as an *act of mercy*
- Prematurely born fetuses have more medical problems and die sooner
- In the third trimester, premature births do okay



# Abortion History

- Practiced by many cultures over many eras
- Induced via herbs, hard labor, fasting, tight girdle, massage, inserting sharps, ...
- First written about in 1550 BC see "History of abortion" on Wikipedia
- In Roe v. Wade (1973), US Supreme Court ruled abortion was legal before fetal viability
- In 2022, Supreme Court ruled states may criminalize any abortion
- In 2022, SD criminalized nearly all abortions

# Forced Pregnancy

- Treats women as breeding stock
- Psychological problems often result for mother, child, father, relatives
- Systematic forced pregnancy is a crime against humanity per Geneva Convention and International Criminal Court
- Male rapist has parental rights in most states
- Male rape *victim* may be liable for child support

# Illegal Abortion Consequences

- Unwanted and unloved children
- More poverty among the poor
- Increased adoption
- Medical bills for abnormalities and defects
- Dangerous amateur abortions, infection, medical bills, death
- More prisoners, fewer doctors, fewer maternity wards
- Emotional trauma

# More Consequences

- Increased physical and emotional morbidity (sickness)
- Increased mortality (death)
- Long term consequences unknown but expected
- Non-pregnant woman are denied medicine
- A national abortion ban would result in maternal deaths rising by 24% overall but 39% for black women. See "Abortion Bans Will Result in More Women Dying" <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/abortion-bans-will-result-in-more-women-dying/>



# Enjoy Nature (End Part 1)



# Abortion

Part 2 of 2

David Zokaites

October 16, 2024

# South Dakota Consequences

- Doctors quite reluctant to perform abortions
- Abortions not allowed for rape, incest, juvenile pregnancy, geriatric pregnancy, defective fetus, ...
- Can't remove a dead fetus or embryo until it is infected and the mother's life is at risk
- Dead fetus has more rights than a pregnant woman
- Can't remove fatal ectopic pregnancy until danger is obvious
- Illegal to abort a fetus with no heart or brain
- Illegal to abort a fetus that will painfully die at birth



# Idaho Consequences

- Idaho outlawed nearly all abortions
- Doctors may be sued, fined, imprisoned
- Doctor shortage resulted
- Hospital closed baby ward
- See <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/mar/20/idaho-bonner-hospital-baby-delivery-abortion-ban>



# Texas Abortion Law

- Fetus protected from age of “heartbeat”
- Doctors who perform abortions may be sued, fined, imprisoned for 99 years
- Anyone who helps can be prosecuted
- Anyone who helps can be sued by anyone in the state
- Illustrates rising extremism and autocracy

# Demographics

- Mostly rich old white men make laws to control mostly young women of modest means
- Rich people can get abortions overseas
- Anti-abortion sentiment seems strongest among old male conservatives – they don't get pregnant
- Pro-abortion sentiment seems strongest among young progressive women – they can get pregnant

# Biblical Patriarchy

- Biblical God is masculine (God the Father)
- Women brought misery into the world (Eve ate forbidden fruit)
- Painful childbirth ordained (Genesis 3:16 "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe ...")
- Patriarchy is ordained (Genesis 3:16 "Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.")
- Make a lot of babies (Genesis 9:7 "Have many children and fill the earth with your people.")
- Bible can be used to control women & make babies

# Bible Prescribes Grisly Abortion

- Jesus never mentioned abortion – not an issue
- God knowing a life does not make it sacred
- Exodus 21:22-25 – a fetus is property, not a life
- Numbers 5:11-31 – priestly abortion for infidelity
- Hosea 9:10-16 – abortion as divine punishment
- Hosea 13:16 – God punishes by ripping open pregnant women
- See also "What Does the Bible Really Say About Abortion?" on <https://ffrf.org/component/k2/item/25602-abortion-rights>

# What Life Should Be Protected?

- Prevalence of natural abortion contradicts idea that all human life is sacred
- War culture and declining child care funding say human life is disposable
- Pollution and mass extinction say humanity does not value Life or Nature
- Genesis implies life starts at birth, breath is life  
"Then the Lord God ... breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living being." Genesis 2:7
- Are we eternal souls temporarily in earthy vessels?<sup>21</sup>

# Misleading Rhetoric

- All human life is sacred
- Unless mothers require financial support
- Unless foreign wars are profitable for industry
- Unless reducing dangerous pollution takes money
- Unless alcohol, drugs, and guns buy Congress
- People want abortions in the 9<sup>th</sup> month – not
- Abortion is killing children – not
- Pro-life really means forced birth and anti social welfare and pro internal conflict and pro power

# More Misleading Rhetoric

- Heartbeat bills outlaw abortion when fetal heart starts beating at 6 weeks – not
- Muscular activity and heartbeat start at 16 weeks – not 6
- Embryonic cardiac electrical activity starts at 6 weeks – not a heartbeat
- Ultrasound machines transform early electrical activity into sound that is not a heart beating
- It's not even a fetus until 8 weeks of gestation



# SD “Life Defense Fund”

- A PAC (political action committee)
- Distributes emotional propaganda
- Promotes division
- Collects money

**DECLINE  
TO  
SIGN**

**SOUTH  
DAKOTA'S RADICAL  
ABORTION  
PETITION**



# “Life Defense Fund”

- Probably exists to promote conservative candidates
- Rides wave of cultural conflict to hide systemic corruption

## HERE'S WHY:

1. DO YOU THINK BABIES SHOULD BE ABORTED UP TO AND INCLUDING AT BIRTH? THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT.
2. IT DENIES THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO KNOW IF THEIR CHILD IS BEING COAXED TO HAVE AN ABORTION.
3. DOCTORS AND NURSES COULD BE FORCED TO PERFORM ABORTIONS OR FACE CRIPPLING LAWSUITS AND PENALTIES.
4. IT WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO TAXPAYER FUNDED ABORTIONS.

LEARN MORE AT [LIFEDEFENSEFUND.COM](http://LIFEDEFENSEFUND.COM)



PAID FOR BY LIFE DEFENSE FUND 

# Actual SD Petition

- Far different from “Life Defense Fund” claims
- The following will be added to the South Dakota constitution:
- "Before the end of the first trimester, the State may not regulate a pregnant woman's abortion decision and its effectuation, which must be left to the judgment of the pregnant woman.
- After the end of the first trimester and until the end of the second trimester, the State may regulate the pregnant woman's abortion decision and its effectuation only in ways that are reasonably related to the physical health of the pregnant woman.
- After the end of the second trimester, the State may regulate or prohibit abortion, except when abortion is necessary, in the medical judgment of the woman's physician, to preserve the life or health of the pregnant woman."

# Recommendations

- Protect all life when practical
- In-school sex education should be thorough and widespread
- Contraception should be free and widely available
- Abortion should be safe, legal, and minimized
- Early term abortions are much better than late term
- Simplify adoption; financially support adoption and child welfare
- City should use home rule charter to supersede repressive oppressive state law

# Enjoy Foggy Winter

