
Sex selection abortion submission (also attached)

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We do not believe our tax dollars should go to killing unborn babies simply because he or she is not the preferred gender. Medicare funding should only go to genuine medical issues. Bumping off a child because you are not happy with the gender is of course not a real medical issue. It is instead a lifestyle choice, and tax dollars should not go to such a poor excuse for killing an unborn baby.

Writing in a recent issue of *The New Atlantis*, American demographics expert Nicholas Eberstadt had a very chilling tale to tell about where this is all headed. In "The Global War Against Baby Girls," he tells of how almost overwhelmingly, sex-selection abortions are done on females, not males.

His article begins as follows: "Over the past three decades the world has come to witness an ominous and entirely new form of gender discrimination: sex-selective feticide, implemented through the practice of surgical abortion with the assistance of information gained through prenatal gender determination technology. All around the world, the victims of this new practice are overwhelmingly female — in fact, almost universally female.

"The practice has become so ruthlessly routine in many contemporary societies that it has impacted their very population structures, warping the balance between male and female births and consequently skewing the sex ratios for the rising generation toward a biologically unnatural excess of males. This still-growing international predilection for sex-selective abortion is by now evident in the demographic contours of dozens of countries around the globe — and it is sufficiently severe that it has come to alter the overall sex ratio at birth of the entire planet, resulting in millions upon millions of new 'missing baby girls' each year. In terms of its sheer toll in human numbers, sex-selective abortion has assumed a scale tantamount to a global war against baby girls.

"Sex-selective abortion is by now so widespread and so frequent that it has come to distort the population composition of the entire human species: this new and medicalized war against baby girls is indeed truly global in scale and scope. Estimates by the United Nations Population Division (UNPD) and the U.S. Census Bureau's International Programs Center (IPC) — the two major organizations charged with tracking and projecting global population trends — make the point.

"According to estimates based on IPC data, a total of 21 countries or territories (including a number of European and Pacific Island areas) had SRBs [sex ratio at birth] of 107 or higher in the year 2010; the total population of the regions beset by unnaturally high SRBs amounted to 2.7 billion, or about 40 percent of the world's total population."

His entire article is found here: www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-global-war-against-baby-girls

Places like China and India already have huge problems because of sex-selection abortion, infanticide and the like. We do not need to see those same problems replicated here. The simple truth is this: killing an unborn baby is always wrong, but it certainly is wrong simply because some adults want a child of a particular sex.

This is treating children as a mere commodity, and it has no place in a civilised society. If you want a red sports car rather than a silver one, fine. If you prefer chocolate ice cream over vanilla, fine. If you like only classical music CDs as opposed to punk rock, fine. Choice is just fine in all those areas. But it is not fine when it comes to unborn babies. They are the ones who deserve a choice. What about their fundamental right to life?

The idea of killing a baby simply because he or she is not the gender the parents prefer is simply horrific and barbaric. We fully support Senator Madigan's bill.

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