

Senator Joseph Biden
 Room 224 Dirksen Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

September 19, 1990

I would like to request that you include my letter as a part of the public record submitted in conjunction with the hearings held in the confirmation process for Judge David Souter. I believe that my testimony is vital to understanding the issues raised by the Senators on the Judiciary Committee. The women panelists who purported to represent the views of the women of America do not represent my views or the views of the majority of the women of America.

First, the testimony heard and entered into the public record did not include the testimony from Women Exploited by Abortion. An organization with 6,000 members, all women who feel that abortion is the worst of many choices available to women. Women who grieve over the loss of their children and the way they were used and deceived by the abortion propagandists. I concur with their position, not because somebody is paying me to speak for them, but because I've experienced their loss, their pain and their sorrow.

When I was in college, as a very immature and unworldly freshman, I became sexually active. Perhaps because of my dancer's training I was aware of a change that occurred in my body the moment of conception and within weeks of conceiving I went to the South West Texas State University Infirmary to get advice, and information. They sent me to the Planned Parenthood in Austin. At Planned Parenthood I was told the test was positive, asked if I had enough money for "the procedure" and told they would take care of "my problem". The procedure was too horrifying and painful to adequately describe with the doctor's knife cutting and sawing and the dreadful sound of the suction machine making me feel as if it were tearing out my heart as well as "the contents of my womb". I went home to my apartment and went to bed where friends found me 3 days later with a raging fever that very nearly killed me. They took me to the University infirmary where I was given antibiotics. I didn't find out until many years later that the doctor who had performed the abortion had lacerated the wall of my womb and my colon. The ensuing infection had destroyed my tubes and filled my abdomen with scar tissue rendering me sterile and ending my career in the dance. Abortion was the only "choice" Planned Parenthood offered me. Abortion destroyed my first child, my ability to bear children and my chosen career.

Secondly, the testimony heard and entered into the public record did not include the testimony from such groups as Concerned Women of America. An organization with 700,000 members who have worked tirelessly for years to address women's and children's issues in a way which protects children and promotes women's dignity and worth. The testimony ignored the sincere convictions of the National Right to Life organization with over 1,000,000 members and over 3,000 local chapters or the women who are the members of Dr. James Dobson's Focus on the Family with a membership of over 1,900,000! The testimony disregarded the beliefs of the 750,000 to 1,000,000 people from all over the United States who came to Washington this spring to stand up and be counted as Pro-Life.

I feel sorry for those hard women who feel they must build women's freedom on the death of our children and on methods which destroy a woman's ability to provide and nurture life. But these very highly paid spokeswomen for the abortion industry do not represent me or the majority of the women of America. These women who demand that the Supreme Court continue to protect thier "right" to kill unborn children are completely ignoring the views and feelings of the millions of women involved in the struggle to provide compassionate alternatives to abortion. Sheltering homes and physicians fees. Diapers and financial support. Baby-sitting and transportation. These highly paid spokeswomen are completely ignoring the millions of couples who wait with open arms to adopt and love a child conceived under difficult or seemingly impossible circumstances.

Finally, the women are ignoring the feelings of the children. I would like to see Norma McCorvey's now grown daughter impanelled to give her testimony and her feelings on abortion. I would like to see pictures of my own beautiful adopted daughter included as testimony. Her story represents every reason used to justify abortion except incest. Her natural mother was raped. A young handicapped woman, she was taking medication which causes severe birth defects. She lost her job and her insurance just weeks before she received confirmation that she was between 6 and 7 months pregnant. Her doctors said she would not be able to carry the child to term and gave her one option: Abortion. They said that the abortion would cost her between \$1800.00 and \$3500.00 depending on the complications they might encounter. The fact that the doctors mentioned that there might be complications is what saved my daughter's life. Her natural Mom, though handicapped from a childhood head injury could not reconcile going ahead with something that sounded so dangerous. She sought counsel from a local Birthright organization. The counselor there made sure she had ALL the facts and ALL of the options and resources clearly available so she could make an INFORMED DECISION. My daughter's natural Mom chose to carry her child to term and then place for adoption privately so that she could personally choose the parents of her unborn child. If any one of the distinguished Senators were to ask our precious Catie if she likes being alive, I'm sure of what her answer would be!

Please stop this continuing disinformation campaign on women's issues. Please allow the views of other legitimate women's groups to receive a hearing. Please allow the enclosed pictures to speak to the committee and to the nation about the beauty and the vulnerability of our most precious resource, our children. Please do not continue to ignore the pain and the sorrow of the thousands of women in America who have been deceived and destroyed by the malicious misinformation of the abortion industry and their well paid spokespersons. I commend Judge David Souter for not bowing to the demands of the abortion lobby. These women do not represent the women of America.

*Sincerely for Life,
Shelley (Mrs. A.L.) Nicholson*

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