

War Against Women? No Way.

Remarks of Laura Wegman
Fort Wayne Stand Up for Religious Freedom Rally
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Thank you Cathie and other members of the Allen County Right to life for inviting me to speak today. While I am truly happy this morning to be among so many like-minded individuals, I'm grieved that such gathering is needed, especially now in light of the Supreme Court's ruling. It is a sad fact that some men will always turn a blind eye toward self-evident truths and that even the most basic rights require constant vigilance and a citizenry willing to defend them. Men and women are gathering all across America to protect these rights and I'm encouraged to see a great number here today.

I am a twenty-three year old college educated young woman. According to both conservatives and liberals alike, the future before me is bleak. For vastly different reasons both sides believe that I along with my peers belong to one of the most disadvantaged demographics in America. Even the most optimistic conservatives tell me, and rightly so, that I belong to a generation saddled with our nation's crippling 15 trillion dollar debt and burdened by the legacy of an administrations that holds little regard for religious liberty and the lives of the unborn. As my fellow graduates and I prepare to enter the professional world we face an 8.8% unemployment rate in a country that many fear is headed towards disastrous financial ruin. According to the left, as a woman, I am the victim of sexism. If I have not already faced discrimination at the collegiate level, I will most likely encounter it in the work place where I will earn 33% less than my male coworkers, or so the story goes. They tell me that I belong to an oppressed class of people, harassed by a radical right wing agenda to limit my so-called "reproductive rights." As a resident of Indiana, the first state to pass legislation to defund Planned Parenthood, I am already considered a casualty in the fallaciously dubbed "War Against Women." So much for hope, so much for the American dream

However I stand with you, as one undaunted by the theatrical political tactics of left and undaunted by the grim reality before us. I hope because I know as you do that the rights we rally for today were not given to us by the arbitrary rulings of a man made institution, but are instead natural rights entrusted to each by a loving and benevolent Creator. I believe in the American dream because I know as you do that our ultimate security lies not with nine justices prone to misinterpret and disregard the Constitution, but rather in our sovereign and omniscient God.

We live not in a perfect nation but one blessed and blessed abundantly. Here in America, despite the attempts of those who would thwart our prosperity and limit our freedoms, success still lies within the grasp of each individual, but is guaranteed to no one. Men and women will continue to live, struggle, succeed and fail each according to his or her own best efforts. American women in particular enjoy a measure of ease and opportunity unknown and undreamed of throughout

the world. There simply is no war on women in the way the left would have us believe.

Since 2000 women have come to represent 57 percent of enrolments at American colleges and the pay-gap myth has been soundly debunked. A detailed comparison of the disparity in wages reveals simply the differences in occupational preferences among the sexes.¹ Equal pay for equal work was the law of the land long before Obama signed the Paycheck Fairness Act in an attempt to win back the approval of his rapidly dwindling female support.

As one Georgetown Law student demonstrated, it is altogether too easy take for granted the blessings of a relatively free nation. While Sandra Fluke testified to lawmakers that the administration's so called contraceptive mandate ought to stand because she and her peers are going broke buying birth control, half way across the world every day Africa girls face the horrific yet socially sanctioned practice of genital mutilation.² In remote villages Afghani rape victims are still stoned to death according to misogynistic religious beliefs,³ and under China's strict policy each young mother fears for the life of her unborn second child. While the United Nations estimates that around 5,000 women are killed annually by Middle Eastern Men for the sake of honor and that a yearly 4 million women and children are sold into the sex-trade, liberals cry abuse when we balk at thought of subsidizing their birth control.⁴ To call this current debate over taxpayer funding for abortion and contraceptives a War on Women is a slap in the face to the true victims of sexual discrimination in the third world and heartless dismissal of the real war against women being fought here on our own soil - That is the slaughter of some thirty three hundred unborn infants each day.

Very recently members of Congress, ninety-two of them being women, were presented with the opportunity to prohibit sex selective abortions in America. The House voted down the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act. Nobel Prize winning economist Amartya Sen estimates that roughly 100 million women are

¹ Washington Post: Fact Checker Study

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/the-white-houses-use-of-data-on-the-gender-wage-gap/2012/06/04/gjQAYH6nEV_blog.html?hpid=z2

² United Nations Population Foundation: UNICEF *Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting A 2005 Study*.

³ USA Today *Afghan President Pardons Imprisoned Rape Victim*

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/afghanistan/story/2011-12-01/afghanistan-woman-pardon/51556132/1>

⁴ UN News Center

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33971&Cr=violence+against+women&Cr1>

<http://www.no-trafficking.org/>

demographically missing worldwide due to sex-selective abortions since 1990.⁵ These abortions are on the rise in America and only four states prohibit them. This is the real war on women.

Sandra Fluke and individuals like her have bought a very cruel and costly lie. The pro-abortion message is perhaps the cruelest lie of our age. It calls infanticide a medical procedure and women the helpless victims of circumstance. To these unintended mothers the abortion movement says, "This problem is too much for you. You're small, you're weak and you are all alone." And *this*, this archaic and patronizing lie, they call: "choice." Abortion is one of the most violent acts committed against young women in our society today. It denies them their natural role as nurturer and protector and after convincing them that no other option exists, it subjects them to an unnatural and gruesome operation.

This "choice" is a poor substitute for the truth - a truth that is simple, empowering, and that all women deserve to hear. This truth is that the unintended mother is not alone and these circumstances are by no means beyond her ability to handle. Over five hundred non-profit crisis pregnancy centers operate throughout the United States, some 30 here in Indiana alone. Such centers exist to support women throughout their pregnancies and beyond and while the abortion industry preys on fear to turn a profit, these volunteer operations free women to rise above their difficult situations and give life to their children. At its core, the pro-life message affirms both the value of each unborn individual and the strength of each individual woman.

And this is why we have reason to hope. Though we continue to face a judicial system, which fails to protect our religious liberty and an executive who is openly antagonistic towards our mission, we hope because the truth is with us. In November the political tides could change. My generation is indeed heavily burdened but it is undeniably the most pro-life generation since *Roe v Wade*. Polls constantly tell us that the pro-life message is winning over the hearts and minds of America's young men and women.

But even if we fail here on earth, even if the worst fears of conservatives and liberals alike are realized, we must remember our eternal perspective. We will pray and petition, volunteer and vote to protect our religious liberties and defend the unborn so that one day when we stand before our Creator and are each called to give an account for our actions, we will have an answer and with God's grace hear those beautiful words, "well done good and faithful servant."

⁵ *Missing Women: Revisiting the Debate*

<http://csde.washington.edu/~scurran/files/readings/April28/recommended/MissingWomen.pdf>