

THE LIE

Punishing one group for the content of their speech is okay for America.

WRONG!!

"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 Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." When our forefathers penned these words in the Declaration of Independence, did they know what they were saying? Of course they did. They KNEW what it was to have those rights denied and the tyranny that it brought. Why else would they have painstakingly written our Constitution, and then felt the need to add the the First Admendment that read, "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble,..."? Did they foresee a time when people would forget what it was like to live without the freedom to stand for their convictions peaceably? They knew that "SILENCE CONDONES", and all it took for evil to prosper was for good people to say nothing.

That is why I walked those hallowed halls of our U.S. Capitol this last September, only a month ago. I had to lay all the excuses aside

and overcome my fears. My silence had condoned enough over the years. How can we hold these public servants accountable for misrepresenting our views unless we tell them what those views are?

I had read the "FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO CLINIC ENTRANCES ACT" for myself. That title sounded so nice put that way, and even the nice abbreviation (FACE) did not give any indication of its aim to rob a single group of their First Amendment Rights; the Pro-Life activists. Actually, H.R. 796 and S. 636 is "two-FACEd". It looks so good on the surface but discriminates against one group of individuals based on their moral and political views. Abortion advocates and "clinic defense" personnel who are free to taunt and provoke pro-life demonstrators, would also be given new weapons to use. Weapons such as civil penalties, jail, compensatory damages, fines, attorney fees, to name a few. You would think that it was targeting those engaged in violence, but this bill uses broad terms such as "interfere, "intimidate," or "obstruct" as guideposts for the courts. Literally inviting groundless prosecution. FACE would penalize what would be otherwise lawful activities outside the abortion arena.

I learned something else while there. Other people just like me were ready to express their concerns about this piece of legislation too. It felt good to be able to take part in the political process, in order to help

secure for each of us, our right to peaceably assemble. Some of these people had taken part in a "RESCUE", and told of the thanks they received from ladies who would have killed their babies had they not been exposed to kind people who prayed outside of the abortion clinics across America. Others opposed the intent to achieve peace by disarming one side of the dispute and empowering the other side. Another said he'd be able to go along with it if it targeted violent acts and if it was broadened to include churches, nuclear facilities, or animal testing labs. After all, fair is fair. But alas, we already do have many laws on the books prohibiting violent acts against persons and property so this one was of little use.

When my turn came to speak, my concerns were very basic: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Life for the ones who have no voice--the unborn. Liberty for the ones who love people enough to stand outside of abortion mills and offer help and hope for ladies who think no one cares. And the pursuit of happiness for the people effected by "Post Abortion Syndrome". Millions of people silently mourn over the "Choice" someone made to take a life. What is your silence costing? Our representatives need to hear what you think!

Deborah Scott
Los Angeles County, CA
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