

Jean Bockelman-McInnis

RE: SJR 33

Reverence for life. Please bear with me as I reveal a sad and powerful true story about the impact the war on children is having of which few speak.

On a lovely late spring afternoon, my young niece and her friend came to spend the night. We were lollygagging in the yard, pulling a few weeds while chitchatting. Asking about school, both said school was difficult because of bullying and being routinely mocked.

After they had a unhappy time talking about why they were bullied, I suggested we make up a song about what their classmates made fun of in them. Their song went something like this:

Niece: "I'm too tall"

Friend chimes in: "I'm too short."

Niece continues: " I'm too smart."

Friend: "I'm too dumb."

Niece chants: "I didn't die."

Silence. Even the birds stopped singing.

I asked what she meant. She said that her mother had two abortions and she wondered why her mother didn't kill her.

At 11 years old my smart niece understood what scientists and biologists the world over assert—human life begins at conception. Survivor syndrome was one consequence caused by the abortion of her siblings. Her two siblings who were allowed their right to life seemed to suffer what Dr. Viktor Frankl described as a "existential vacuum" growing in prevalence in our times. According to Dr. Frankl and colleagues who studied with him, the existential vacuum is the loss of meaning and purpose in life, loss of reverence for life. In turn, the existential vacuum forms a mass neurosis whose symptoms are the tragic triad, Aggression, Depression, Addiction.

We see this unfolding daily. In the Salem-Keizer School District voters pamphlet, 5 of the six candidates mention the need to make schools safe for children. One candidate mentions combatting youth suicide and bathroom drug usage. All candidates mention the need for more student academic success since Oregon ranks low in student proficiency.

I believe that ensuring safety in the womb for children will begin to have impact on safety in community of every kind. Loss of reverence for life has a dreadful impact on all our lives; look around.

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SRJ 33 has many other horrifying aspects including cementing in our constitution the power of the Thought Police to crush people and organizations who may have the “intent” to save life or to encourage the formation of stable families, but are instead, accused of discrimination and duly punished. How much worse if their “intent” has no effect on others as this constitutional amendment may allow. Those others may deny the science that human life begins at conception, or even if they do believe the science, do not believe in reverence for life or the need for stable families to nurture healthy children. They may not understand the suppressed truth that once a woman becomes pregnant, she must give birth. Whether by spontaneous abortion, miscarriage, or by induced abortion, giving birth to a dead child is neither easy nor without medical and psychological risks to women. We should be minimizing this harm, not encouraging it.

While this proposed amendment only gives liability to government entities, but only litigation will resolve individual liabilities within those entities. This is a completely irresponsible way to approach lawmaking putting at risk the livelihood of employees within those entities. Will entities who receive significant funding from government agencies be held liable to enforce on their employees the same standards?

As European countries move away from cross sex hormone treatment and other more castrating therapies for minors, Oregon seems to want to move toward them despite the growing evidence that the treatments are more harmful than helpful. Please consider the wide evidence that the current theories of life-giving treatment are in not based on science.

In conclusion I beg you to stop the war on children. It is a war on all life. Instead, at every opportunity, please encourage reverence for life.

Viktor Frankl’s concepts around the tragic triad can be found in his book: [The Unheard Cry for Meaning.](#)

Thank you for listening and considering.

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