

The GOP's Abortion Ban Albatross

“The Turnaway Study shows that women who are denied wanted abortions scale back their short-term plans and suffer economic hardship for years... Forcing women to carry unwanted pregnancies is not, it turns out, a good strategy for producing strong relationships and families.”

Diana Greene Foster: The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having – or Being Denied – an Abortion

The Ancient Mariner of Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s classic poem was forced to carry the corpse of an albatross he’d killed around his neck as penance for his arrogance and its consequences.

The Republican Party’s arrogance in believing they can change human behavior with laws criminalizing that behavior, and the heartless cruelty with which those laws are enforced, will be the deadweight of an albatross around the party’s neck that will grow heavier every time that heartless cruelty is inflicted.

Every woman who is forced to carry a pregnancy against her wishes, which in many cases will cause career derailment, financial distress, and the loneliness of single motherhood...

Every woman who is forced to carry the burden of an unwanted child alone because the biological father walked away from his responsibility...

Every woman who cannot work because she can’t afford childcare but cannot get welfare support because of Republican work requirements and evisceration of the social safety net...

Every victim of rape or incest who is humiliated by being required to document the crime before she can receive an abortion, if she can receive one at all...

Every brokenhearted parent who sees the promise that their daughter can do anything a man can do violated by state-mandated pregnancy, while the man who impregnated her walks away without obligation...

Every new grandparent who learns to their dismay that they need to trade in the RV for a baby seat because their pregnant daughter is too young or otherwise incapable of raising a child...

Every husband or boyfriend who is forced to helplessly watch the woman he loves go through the emotional and physical agony of pregnancy complications because doctors are afraid to provide abortion care...

Every couple who feels compelled to stay in a loveless relationship because of an unwanted pregnancy...

Every doctor and nurse who must violate their professional oath by denying care they believe to be medically appropriate for fear of losing their license or being criminally charged...

Every social worker who helps women cope with the emotional and financial burden of forced motherhood...

Every woman who is criminally charged after having had a miscarriage...

...will add to the epidemic of poverty and loneliness in this nation, and year by year increase the deadweight of the GOP's abortion albatross, accelerating the inevitable day of repudiation and repeal.



The Albatross has landed!