

Reckless Political Malfeasance

“Legalized abortion appears to account for as much as 50 percent of the... drop in crime [in the 1990s].”

Donohue J and Levitt S: “The impact of legalized abortion on crime” The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 05-01

In the provocative book *Freakonomics*, self-proclaimed rogue economist Steven Levitt attributes a significant proportion of the dramatic reduction in violent crime that began in the early 1990s to Roe v. Wade 15 years earlier. He writes:

Legalized abortion led to less unwantedness;
unwantedness leads to high crime;
legalized abortion, therefore, led to less crime.

Abortion ban politicians can quibble with the methodology used in this study. They can contest the prediction that outlawing abortion today will cause a spike in violent crime over the next 15-20 years. But to outlaw abortion with an *ad hominem* rejection of the premise is reckless and irresponsible political malfeasance. *Responsible* politicians would ask questions like these:

Should we plan now for an expanded juvenile justice system to help keep these unwanted children out of trouble and to take care of them when they get into trouble?

Will we need larger and better-armed police forces to patrol our communities and protect our citizenry? Will we need more prisons?

Will we need greater investments in technology, staffing, and emergency medical resources to care for victims of increased violent crime?

What must be done now and in coming years to help mothers keep the children they were forced to bear out of harm's way when they reach those troubled adolescent years?

What preparations must school systems make now for an influx of children born from unwanted pregnancies who are raised in low-income households without a positive male role model?

What additional research and resources are needed to beef up child mental health services now to minimize increased violent crime later?

When do we stand up to the gun lobby to prevent the proverbial angry young men of today's unwanted pregnancies from acquiring weapons of war tomorrow?

We do not know the answers to these questions because Republican politicians do not want to ask them.

In his book *People of the Lie*, Dr. M. Scott Peck wrote that the greatest evils are created by “militant ignorance.” The militant refusal of Republican politicians to anticipate, much less prepare for, the perverse consequences of the MAGA / Project 25 agenda, including their abortion bans, will cause great suffering in the future.



Republican “pro-life” politicians do not ask about the unintended perverse consequences of their abortion ban laws, much less do anything to mitigate those consequences, because they stop caring about the life of a woman the instant she becomes pregnant and they stop caring about the life of a fetus the instant it becomes a baby.