

Broken Promises, Broken Hearts

If you are the parent of a daughter,
you made your little girl an extravagant promise, a sacred vow.
You promised her that she could do whatever she set her sights on doing,
that she could be whoever she set her mind on being.

You promised her she could climb mountains and explore hidden caverns.
You promised her she could be an astronomer or an astronaut,
that she could make it on the varsity team and then
become a doctor or lawyer or entrepreneur.

You told her that if she saved her money
she could see the world,
that if she committed herself to a cause
she could change the world.

You promised her that anything a man could do she could do,
that glass ceilings were meant to be broken,
and that she could choose when and with whom
to become a mother.

And your little girl believed you.
She worked hard in the library and the laboratory,
played her heart out on the track and in the gym,
pursuing the future you vowed could be hers.

But now if your daughter is impregnated against her will
and lives in a state where (mostly white male) Republicans
have enacted forced pregnancy laws
those politicians will make a liar out of you.

Your pregnant daughter will not play varsity basketball.
She will not go to medical school or law school or business school.
She will not climb mountains or travel to other parts of the world.
She will not scuba dive, she will not skydive.

Your daughter will not change the world because
she will be overwhelmed with changing diapers and
she will not be an entrepreneur because on her minimum wage job
she will be unable to find affordable childcare.

And she will probably have to do it alone
because the “pro-family” politicians in her abortion ban state
lack the courage to require the man who got her pregnant
to man up to the responsibilities of fatherhood.

“Pro-life” politicians stop caring about the life of your daughter
the moment she becomes pregnant
and stop caring about the life of her fetus
the moment it becomes a baby.

And they will make a liar out of you.



**Parents: If your daughter is made pregnant against her wishes and lives in a
Republican abortion ban state, the white male politicians of that state will
break your hearts and make liars out of you.**