

# Former Abortion Activist Sees a New Worldview

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**By Elizabeth Matory**

CARNEY, Md.—I used to stand outside the U.S. Supreme Court waving my proudly prochoice sign and demanding bodily autonomy for women.

I was a proud activist for the abortion industry until my worldview was hit in the face like a Mack truck and I decided to ditch my previous life and became an advocate for the unborn and women facing unplanned pregnancies.

It's a long and life-altering story, but suffice to say that it's been a while since I've had a conversation with someone who is unapologetically proabortion. When I had the opportunity to have a constructive conversation with a Democratic legislator in Tennessee about a bill that mandated fetal remains be buried or cremated, I thought it was a step in the right direction towards some kind of consensus.

It wasn't.

## **No middle ground**

It may be a little Pollyanna of me, but I still believe that, if more people knew the truth about the abortion industry, they would change their mind on the matter. Just like I did. What I discovered is that someone has to be wrong here; there is no middle ground.

I was asked to meet with this particular legislator because I was advocating for the Fetal Remains bill. I naively thought, "That's great. There's a Democrat that was moved by our testimony on how babies are treated like medical waste."

She listened to what I had to say. She did. But soon it seemed like she was trying to prove me wrong.

"I used to think the way you did" or "I was there too," I would say.

She would respond, "You don't know me" or "You're nothing like me."

## **She thought I was offensive**

I don't know what triggered her, but something I said did trigger her to become very defensive. I don't think I said anything offensive, but she said that I was being very patronizing, like I was talking down to her.

All I said was that we believe that fetal remains should be treated with dignity and not thrown away like trash.

But what about the health of the mother? Do you think every sperm needs to be saved too? A nine-week-old fetus doesn't have arms!

### **More than medical tissue**

And there lies the problem—after conception, when a sperm unites with an egg, that union creates a new life. Every moment, every week, there is more development, and each and every cell's purpose is to grow—in this case, a human. The human just gets bigger and bigger over time.

A baby and medical tissue cannot be the same thing. Yet abortion advocates will never refer to the fetus as a baby; it's only "medical tissue" or "medical waste." The Democratic Party claims to be the party of science and, yet, this is ironically the opposite of that position.

I don't remember thinking in terms of medical tissue when I was prochoice. But then again, I didn't think about the baby.

### **Destruction of human life**

Like others, I just believed blindly that it was a "woman's right to choose." What are we choosing as women? The destruction of human life.

There is no other issue that we face as Americans (as humans really) that is so critical and so contentious. These differing beliefs are considered insulting, offensive and destructive to the "other side."

But someone has to be wrong in this situation, and admitting that you're wrong in many cases, especially this one, can cause unwanted rippling effects about other, deeply held beliefs.

If we are not discarding medical tissue in the trash or garbage disposal, but we are discarding babies or fetal remains, what does that mean for the clinics, the clinic workers, the mothers and, yes, even the fathers?

### **Hope people are open to truth**

I'm blessed enough to work with many former abortion workers at a ministry called And Then There Were None. Every single one had some kind of inner turmoil and questioning of beliefs before they left. It's one thing to advocate for abortion, but it's quite another to piece together the body parts of aborted children in the clinic.

I don't think consensus is possible amongst the prolife and prochoice movements. I hope each side has compassion for each other and for the women and their babies in difficult situations. I hope that the eyes and hearts of all are opened to the truth.