

Dear Mayor Pete,

My name is Thomas, and I have lived near South Bend my entire life. When I heard that you were running for President, I was intrigued and started following your campaign. I was deeply troubled, however, by your comment on *Meet the Press* that “abortion is a question that is almost unknowable, a moral question that is not going to be settled by science, so the best way for it to be settled is by the person who actually faces the choice.” I started thinking, what does it mean for abortion to be unknowable? Will we never know the truth about what abortion is, or whether it can be part of a just society? I disagree that the best way to settle a moral question is by deciding who should call the shots. If our laws were based on that logic, people would be able to murder, abuse, or steal because they are the ones who face the choice. Instead, one should come to a conclusion about issues by seeking the truth.

I agree that abortion is a moral question that cannot be settled by science. This is because science only provides information on how the material world works. But it does supply valuable information, which can be used to better understand the issue. Through science we have learned that from the moment of conception, a new human life is a unique individual with his own human DNA. We also know that this unborn child is alive because he is growing and developing. Thus, abortion is deliberately ending a human life. So, the question of abortion is really a question about whether laws that take an innocent human life are just. It is the purpose of civil law to protect the rights of those in society, beginning with their most important right, which is the right to life. Laws that do not protect the most innocent and vulnerable are not just laws.

I understand that women who face difficult pregnancies are suffering in many ways and that they need our love and support, such as the help given by the Women’s Care Center. Considering your statement that you trust women to make the choice for themselves, I was surprised that you vetoed the approval given by the South Bend Common Council, permitting the Women’s Care Center to open on Lincolnway West, since they offer an important option for women. I attended those council meetings, and was encouraged that women would have another choice than just the abortion clinic planning to open on the same street. I encourage you to stop by a Women’s Care Center and see for yourself the wonderful support being offered there.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope you will reconsider the way you think about moral issues such as abortion, asking “What is the truth?” instead of “Who should decide?” Finding the truth is the only way to build a just society.

Sincerely,

Thomas Murphy