



AN OPEN LETTER TO **CLINIC WORKERS:**

My journey at Planned Parenthood began with the belief that I was genuinely helping women in making the best choices for their lives. Although I wasn't raised to view abortion as a positive choice for women, the fact that it was legal led me to believe it must be okay. I believed that legal abortions were certainly a better option than illegal ones.

I was under the impression that Planned Parenthood was committed to reducing unintended pregnancies, and consequently, the number of abortions. I believed I was on the right path. I stood up for what I was doing and had faith in it. I was a staunch advocate of "choice." I would engage in debates with those who disagreed. I would defend abortion rights to anyone willing to listen. **My commitment and passion led to my recognition as the Planned Parenthood 2008 "Employee of the Year."** My work was my life. My job brought me joy. I valued the patients we served. I believed I was helping them. I believe you do, too.

Did I help women? **I thought I was helping them.** I remember many of the women who I helped – the woman who hadn't had an exam in a decade, the woman who required testing due to her husband's infidelity, and many other women we took the time to refer out for further testing before my affiliate prioritized abortion sales over healthcare services. I remember all these women and their stories. I provided them with the healthcare they needed and deserved. Yet, I also remember the day I watched a 13-week-old fetus struggle for its life during an abortion procedure.

I remember examining the remains of aborted babies and accounting for their arms, legs, and heads. I remember being able to determine the baby's gender. How did I justify my work for so long? How are you managing to do the same? I think I tried to convince myself that I was doing the right thing – the right thing for these women. But what about the babies? What about the lives I was part of terminating? Didn't they matter? Was it genuinely ALL about the woman and her rights?

I have come to understand something I didn't grasp back then. It is NOT just about the woman. Abortion impacts many people. Of course, it affects the woman, but it also affects the man involved, the extended family, and most importantly, the growing child in her womb. I previously viewed abortion as an issue that was very one-sided, but now I see it as a matter that influences multiple people and multiple lives. It also affects your life as a clinic worker. You are witnessing things that will leave a permanent mark on your mind. You are speaking words to yourself and others that will forever echo in your mind.

You will dream about the work you are doing and what you have seen. It will not go away...not until you experience real healing. Healing is possible, but it won't happen until you take that first step and leave. I understand it is scary. You may feel secure where you are. You may be a single mother, or you might depend on the insurance benefit...whatever your reason is, there is something better.

Trust in yourself and understand that you are more than the work you are currently doing.

**NO ONE GROWS UP WANTING TO
WORK AT AN ABORTION CLINIC.**



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