feedback

Statistics indicate no choice

To the Editor:

There has been a lot of discussion about abortions and contraception recently. I ran across a few statistics that are both pertinent and interesting. There are two commonly cited effectiveness rates for contraceptions:

1) The method effectiveness: when the contraceptive method is used exactly right, all the time. These rates are shown in the accompanying table for several methods. The table shows the chance of at least one pregnancy during the period shown, as well as the chances of avoiding unplanned pregnancies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Users/year (%)</th>
<th>Users/100 years (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IUD</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E2D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diaphragm</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper T</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A woman, who practices abortion consistently with the method shown, has more than a one-third chance of experiencing an unplanned pregnancy if she always uses the best available birth control through menopause at 52. A woman who uses a 98 percent effective method for 30 years has almost a coin-flip chance of getting pregnant.

Taking a stance on abortion is a very difficult decision. The facts do not support the easy argument that, except in rare cases, an unplanned pregnancy only happens when a woman does not use the best available birth control method. From these figures, I draw the conclusion that being anti-abortion is to be anti-choice. More accurately, it is pro-life stance means that one believes that only legal choices that all women should be free to face are sexual-abstinence, sterilization, or a high risk of bearing at least one unplanned child.

V. M. Kim Rohlin O

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