Glenda Wiles

From: Michelle Hand-Pope [michellehandpope@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 10:17 AM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners
Subject: Title X Family Planning Fund

To Ravalli County Commissioners who voted against Title X:

I am appalled and ashamed to have under- informed and possibly under-educated people representing this valley. I am a registered nurse and have 2 children that I have concerns about, like most parents do.I am not so divorced from reality to think that my telling my children not to have sex will keep them from it. Nor, am I so over-whelmed by "personal" convictions that I cannot see the reality for people out-side of my own home.

I am fortunate enough to have an open discussion with my children regarding safe sex and birth control. However, I find that this is not the case most of the time with families. I understand that there might be some worry that a "child" might get birth control without their parents knowledge.

The larger concern is the fact that I doubt that this child would consult their parents for permission to have sex and then there's a possibility of them obtaining some type of dangerous abortion...also without parental knowledge.

I hope that the commission doesn't have it's head in the sand over illegal medical and chemical abortions too. Abortion isn't new, it's been around since the beginning of time in one form or another.

I find it disturbing that a commissioner feels that it somehow saves money to vote this down. I would imagine that raising babies and supporting families on welfare because a "child" had a "child" is quite a bit more expensive. Then all the conservative whining about THIS funding starts.

I have been in the medical field since 1989 and have yet to see a "birth control-without -permission" related emergency. But I have witnessed quite a few teens showing up to the ED or calling an ambulance because they were in labor. Some didn't even know that they were pregnant and thought they had appendicitis or some other abdominal problem and others simply didn't know what to do. THEY HAD NOT TOLD THEIR PARENTS. I also know for a FACT that hospital emergency and surgical care costs more than a condom or any other form of birth control that I know of.

Is this the scenario we want here in Ravalli county? It happens already. Shall we waste money on statistical analysis of our little section of the world, or take notice of the ones already published regarding teen pregnancy, STD's, cancer, and other related issues (which are rampant in the US and I doubt that Ravalli County is immune to that).

If some sort of religious convictions are an issue for some commissioners, then shame on you. Educate your own families regarding religion and leave it out of the proceedings of the commission please.

Unfortunately, many families cannot educate their own children on birth control, because they are not knowledgeable about it or are ashamed to discuss it. Many of them are had babies in their teens as well. We must simply stop this cycle.

Michelle H. Pope R.N.