Women of the Past, Present and Future

Submitted by madamab on Fri, 03/05/2010 - 11:00am

Each time a girl opens a book and reads a womanless history, she learns she is worth less.

? Myra Pollack Sadker

It's Women's History Month! That means we will have even more reason to talk about women: women of the past, present and future.

The woman I'd like to talk about from my past was my mother. I lost her on March 9, 1996, but I can't help remembering her, not just because I loved her so and said farewell to her long before her time, but also because I see her in the mirror every day. (All the cliches are true.)

My mother was far from a traditional feminist, and yet, she was fiercely individual in her thinking and her approach to life. She tried to do the traditional mom thing (staying home with the kids), but didn't like it very much. She worked on and off when I was older, but she didn't seem to like that much either. A bit of a restless spirit with a questing mind and heart, she had a fear of imperfection that haunted her relationships until her illness (which she knew to be fatal fairly soon) took that fear away.

When cancer struck, she let go of all the rest of her fears and started finding peace within herself. She mended fences with me and moved out to California to be with her mother, my grandmother (who outlived my mom by many years). I think that she found an exceptional strength of character in the days of her illness, and I can only hope that if similar tragedy strikes, I can be inspired by her example. I love you, Mom.

My Woman of the Present is the Oscar-nominated director of The Hurt Locker, Kathryn Bigelow. (We'll have an Oscar liveblog on Sunday - come on, Steve Martin AND Alec Baldwin hosting?! I'm so there!) This is such an amazing story - she has a real shot at becoming the first woman...
in Oscar history to win in the Best Director category. What would make it even sweeter (and more Hollywood, natch) would be if she beat her ex-husband, James Cameron [11], who directed the visually stunning CGI 3D extravaganza Avatar [12]. Go, sister girl. Break that Hollywood glass ceiling!

Half-Healthcare For Women!

And now, for the women of the future...that would be us, folks. What does it hold for us? If Bart Stupak and his "Democratic" colleagues have their way [13], it will be health "insurance" reform for half of our bodies.

Proponents of more stringent abortion measures such as Stupak argue that in an insurance exchange, which is part of the health care overhaul bill, the current standing regulations on abortions will not be enough to prevent federal funding from going toward those services.

"We want see a bill. But the bill that they [White House] are using as a vehicle is the Senate bill," Stupak said. "You would find in there the federal government would directly subsidize abortions, plus every enrollee in the Office of Personnel management plan, every enrollee has to pay a minimum of $1 per month toward reproductive rights which includes abortion."

"Give us our language. Let's keep current law: No public funding for abortion."

President Obama's proposal, released last week, builds on the Senate health care bill [14], which includes less-restrictive language on abortion than the House bill. But those who support the language in the Senate bill [15] and the president's proposal say it maintains the existing law.

"I hope that when the bill is in its final form and people have a chance to look at it, I think they will understand that this bill does not change the status quo on abortion," Sebelius said.

The language in the Senate health care bill restricts the use of public funds for abortion services. But private insurance plans that are offered in the insurance exchange can cover abortion if funds for the procedure are used only from premiums
paid by beneficiaries. States have the option of banning coverage in insurance plans brought in insurance marketplaces.

Stupak's amendment, which was part of the House bill [16] but failed in the Senate, limits access to abortions for people who receive federal subsidies and those who purchase insurance through a health insurance exchange, a marketplace where people would be able to shop for and compare insurance plans.

Stupak’s more restrictive anti-abortion language passed the House by a vote of 240-194. Senators defeated the anti-abortion amendment 54-45, and that Obama is pushing.

Stupak said the abortion language can be included even through reconciliation [17], a process which does not require 60 votes but a simple majority of 51 senators to pass.

"You can do it, if there's a will there’s a way," he said. "That's just the excuse they're giving."

Yes, yes, yes. It's so important that a bunch of uptight men impose the severest ovarian penalty possible for the sin of teh wimminz having sex and getting pregnant!

I would personally LOVE IT if this fuckhead Stupak and his 13th-century colleagues derailed the pitiful excuse for health "insurance" reform that has come out this corrupt sinkhole of an Administration. Please, let the fundies take the blame. For just fucking ONCE, let someone point the finger at them and their misogynistic insanity and blame THEM for the horrors they are determined to unleash on the 70% of Americans who are sane, good, moral human beings. Goddess, please let this be.

As the Divine Miss Bette would say, "Fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a bumpy night." As we go forward into an uncertain future, I hope we can all find inspiration from our women of the past and present, whomever they may be.

Source URL (modified on 03/05/2010 - 11:00am):
http://correntewire.com/women_past_present_and_future

Links