

# Why should liberals

## embrace the Consistent Life Ethic?

“It’s not just about being against something, it’s believing that every individual deserves dignity and respect, whoever they are, at whatever stage of life they’re in.”

- Dan Lipinski, Democratic Representative (IL-3) [D]

The Democratic Party has long held a commitment to the most vulnerable members of our society. As the party that supported the Civil Rights movement, the anti-war movements, and movement to close Guantanamo; as the party of inclusion and compassion, we stand for human rights, justice, and equality. In the same way, the Consistent Life Ethic (CLE) is a philosophy based on the intrinsic value of every individual human being. Those who uphold the CLE agree, and believe that it’s time to acknowledge the rights and protect the lives of all human beings - no exceptions.

The CLE opposes all forms of aggressive violence, including but not limited to: war, capital punishment, torture, human trafficking, abortion, embryonic stem cell research, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

For more info :  
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## But wait...

### Don't women need abortion in order to achieve success in school and the workplace?

Four decades after Roe, pregnant women still suffer from discrimination in school and the workplace, women still struggle to earn equal pay for equal work and don't have guaranteed paid leave. We need to attack these injustices directly with sustainable solutions instead of attacking the lives of human beings in the womb.

### By defunding abortion providers, aren't you taking away women's access to healthcare?

The health needs of women comprise much more than just pelvic exams, PAP smears, STD tests, UTI inspections, manual breast exams and birth control. However, these limited services are the only things Planned Parenthood offers [A]. Federally Qualified Health Centers offer all those services and more, without the violence of abortion [B]. FQHCs outnumber Planned Parenthoods 13 to 1 and serve 22.8 million people yearly (compared to PP's 2.8 million) [C, D]. Beyond this, it is important to recognize that the government shouldn't contract with an organization that kills human beings.

### What about the potential for lifesaving treatments from embryonic stem cell research?

Adult stem cells have been used successfully in human therapies for years, but embryonic stem cell therapies have proven medically problematic at best, and deadly at worst. Additionally, recent advances have allowed us to create induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which are similar to embryonic stem cells in both form and function [E], but don't require the destruction of a human's life in their creation. It is important for us to respect the lives of humans in their early embryonic life like those of any other human beings and explore research and treatment options that do not require their destruction.

### Don't the disabled have the right to die?

While pain is often cited as the primary reason people advocate for assisted suicide, Oregon doctors did not report this as any of the top five reasons they issue lethal prescriptions. Instead, "loss of autonomy", "less able to engage in activities", and other issues of disability were listed as the top reasons [F]. It is clear that assisted suicide is the product of a society which devalues the lives of people with disabilities. It is important to stand against these attitudes and respect the life and dignity of all individuals by providing holistic and comprehensive care to the sick instead of reinforcing the stigmatization of impairment by allowing them to kill themselves.

#### WORKS CITED

- [A] Planned Parenthood Federation of America. <http://www.plannedparenthood.org>
- [B] Medicare Benefit Policy Manual. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c13.pdf>
- [C] HRSA National Data, 2013-2014. <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/uds/datacenter.aspx?q=all&year=2014&state>
- [D] Planned Parenthood Annual Report, 2013-2014. [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/6714/1996/2641/2013-2014\\_Annual\\_Report\\_FINAL\\_WEB\\_VERSION.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/6714/1996/2641/2013-2014_Annual_Report_FINAL_WEB_VERSION.pdf)
- [E] Takahashi et al., 2007. Induction of pluripotent stem cells from adult human fibroblasts by defined factors. *Cell*, 131 (2007), pp. 861-872
- [F] Oregon's Death with Dignity Act—2013. <https://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/EvaluationResearch/DeathwithDignityAct/Documents/year16.pdf>

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