

Abby Johnson and anti-abortion advocacy

BY JACKY WILSON

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – At 22-weeks-pregnant, ex-Planned Parenthood director Abby Johnson delivered a very thought-provoking speech about the inner workings of the organization and her progression into anti-abortion activism. The event was held Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the Lory Student Center’s Main Ballroom. “An Inside Look at Planned Parenthood” was hosted by the Students for Life committee at CSU.

Abby Johnson worked her way up the ranks at Planned Parenthood for eight years before walking out due to witnessing the effects of an ultra-sound guided abortion. “This looks like a kid up there,” she thought as she hesitantly sat in, “and I knew abortion was graphic.” Abby Johnson, however, could not have prepared herself for what she was about to see.

“I saw (the candela) go right up to the side of the child and when it touched the child, the child jumped. I saw him flailing his arms and attempting to flee to the walls of his mother’s uterus.” Never before this incident had Johnson pictured it not as an embryo, fetus, or clump of cells, but as a baby.



Along with describing the gruesome details of this explicit incident, she also described the high risk to a woman’s health this procedure inherently has. Johnson told the story of a 21-year-old woman who had to get an emergency hysterectomy because she had developed gangrene due to an improperly performed abortion. “I was trained as a POC technician (products of conception, or baby) whose job is to take all of the extracted tissue and dump it into a dish, later reassembling the parts accounting for the arms, legs, torso and head because if you leave part of the child in the mother’s womb she could die.”

Johnson too gave her own opinion about some of the morals of Planned Parenthood, revealing her perspective that “at Planned Parenthood they don’t care,” and that this organization was willing to forgo the health and wellness of their patients to “make a quick buck.”

Johnson also revealed that in order to maintain profits and customers, employees of Planned Parenthood are trained to keep the clients coming. To answer some tough questions, like “will it hurt my baby” the company sent out a scripted pamphlet to the hired counselors. According to the script, counselors were to tell patients “No, the fetus has no sensory development until 28-weeks-old.” Johnson knew this couldn’t be true, because she, at 18-weeks-pregnant, could feel

her baby responding to her movements. “The answer to that question is pivotal,” Johnson responded, “*we* (as counselors) had to believe the lie, because there was no way *they* could believe it was a lie and continue doing what they were doing... the truth was too scary.”

Once her speech concluded, there was an allotted time for a question and answer session. The event hosted approximately 300 people, including Mayor Ray Martinez. Fort Collins’ Mayor’s birth mother conceived him from a traumatic rape, and gave him up for adoption instead of choosing to abort the pregnancy. In response to the idea of only allowing abortions cases of rape or incest, Martinez said “I’d like to think I turned out pretty well.”

The crowd received Johnson rather well and the speaker stayed after to autograph books and answer questions. She has her own website, www.abbyjohnson.org and has written a book titled *UnPlanned*.



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