

Orlando Sentinel

Who are you voting for?

My mother had an ectopic pregnancy in the 1960s that almost killed her. She was denied critical medical care to remove the pregnancy until a male family member could be located to come down and sign the consent papers. Her signature was deemed insufficient, because she was a woman. If she had died, she would have left 8 children under 18 at home without a mother, and a father who traveled for a living.

I'm voting Democratic in honor of my mother.

I have many young women in my family, who I won't name here, but who needed D&Cs after miscarriages to go on to have the healthy and deeply loved children they currently have. You probably have them in your family also – it's not uncommon – it's just something they haven't talked about with you.

I'm voting Democratic in honor of the young women in my family.

These are issues that transcend politics- they're about biology, and the various ways that women need medical care in pregnancy -- that Republican restrictions on abortion endanger. Doctors are afraid to lose their licenses or face criminal action as the price of giving needed care to women whose reproduction is not going the way they had hoped and prayed for.

We can't go back.

Mom, this vote's for you.

Linda Falcao
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