



Christian Voices for Life Wednesday Word

Education
Prayer
Action

Why Do Parents Want their Daughters to Abort?



Education: Those in favor of legal abortion often talk about a woman's "right to choose". The truth, however, is that most abortions are unwanted, coerced, or even forced. 64% of women report feeling pressured to abort. (1) A report from the Elliott Institute (1) gives many examples of real cases in addition to references to a number of studies. Teens are especially at risk, because they are less able to solve problems and stand up to pressure.

Teens are particularly at risk to coercion from their parents. They may want abortion because they think that being a single mother will prevent her from continuing her education and ruin their daughter's life, and/or mean negative consequences for themselves. They may want to avoid embarrassment or the burden of helping to raise the child. They often do not understand the life-changing negative consequences of abortion for their child, or the help that is available to support her in various ways, including ways that might allow her to continue in school. Information and help to find resources are available at [Home - Standing With You](#). The option of an adoption plan might not even occur to them.

Of course, the best possible course is for parents to help their children to avoid teen pregnancy in the first place, and help for that is also available. (2) Pressure to abort might also come from schools or employers. Information about the rights of pregnant or parenting students or employees can be found at [Home - Standing With You](#)

1. David Reardon, "Forced Abortion in America" available [Forced Abortion Fact Sheet.pdf](#)
2. [10 Tips for Parents to Help Their Children Avoid Teen Pregnancy | Cooperative Extension | University of Delaware](#)



Prayer: Dear Father God, please have mercy on parents of pregnant teens. Help them to accept the situation, see their grandchild as a precious gift in spite of the circumstances, and understand the devastating effects of abortion to those involved. Guide them as they extend to their children the support they need and work together to plan to provide a good home for the child, either by parenting or adoption. Help church communities be clear in their intention to support unmarried pregnant teens and their parents, without judgment. Help women of any age who are subject to coercion to feel Your presence with them, and look to You for the support, strength and wisdom to choose life.

Action: There are three actions that can prevent coerced abortion.

1. **Talk to parents.** Many parents may not realize the devastating effect that abortion can have on their child, or are just unwilling to support their child through a pregnancy. Give them copies of an article about the effects of abortion, [found here](#), a reference to [Home - Standing With You](#), with advice and help to find resources, and copies of the "Dear Parent" letter from [the Justice Foundation](#), about the legal rights of mothers of any age.
2. **Talk to students.** Friends of teens are likely to be the first to find out about an unwanted pregnancy and the possibility of coercion to abort. Give out copies of the "Dear Student" letter from Students for Life and [the Justice Foundation](#).
3. **Support legislation to criminalize coerced abortion.**