

The position on abortion held by most college students is concerning. According to Gallup, roughly 64% of college students identify as pro-choice¹, a number that is continuing to rise. But do not give up hope, by understanding their position properly and addressing their legitimate concerns there is much hope of winning them over to the side of life. However, this will not happen if conversations are not had.

To persuade anybody it is necessary to understand why they hold their opinion, much of the divide on the issue of abortion exists solely in a lack of understanding. The pro-choice position bases itself on the idea that abortion is a women's issue, that it is a fundamental right, that when lost endangers women. This concern for women is a fundamentally good motive, but it lacks an understanding of how abortion affects women and disregards the life of the child as a factor. The majority of women who have abortions are pressured into it.² Most students whom I have talked with have been either unaware that unborn children constitute life or do not believe that life has any value. Many people change their position when they see the facts of the matter. The majority of people support some level of restriction on abortion³ but are unaware of the extent to which abortion is legal. I have had numerous conversations with people who are not even aware that their views on abortion conflict with the laws in place surrounding it. Many people agree that life has value, but don't ascribe that value to the

¹ Gallup Poll <https://news.gallup.com/poll/244709/pro-choice-pro-life-2018-demographic-tables.aspx>

² Effects of abortion

<https://www.cureus.com/articles/146123-the-effects-of-abortion-decision-rightness-and-decision-type-on-womens-satisfaction-and-mental-health>

³ Pew Research Poll <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/05/06/americas-abortion-quandary/>

life of the unborn. The biggest thing in convincing someone is establishing the fundamental facts of when life begins, and that life has value. With these established it is a lot harder to defend the pro-choice position because doing so requires them to explicitly advocate for the killing of human life.

No amount of social pressure or financial hardship morally permits murder. Many people will argue with extreme hypotheticals and subjective morality and it's more difficult to convince them. But many people aren't deeply invested in abortion, they are pro-choice because that seems to be the safe mainstream position. The number of people radicalized into a position of unreserved support for abortion is small but growing. Most college students will disregard what is being said by older generations, but they will be a lot more willing to listen to their peers. This is why it is vital that young people are active in the discussion, if the college students that are pro-life don't take a stand, there won't be pro-life college students for long.

So what can college students do? With growing support for abortion in colleges, it's more important than ever that college students get involved with their peers on the issue. There are many ways for students to be heard, organizations such as Students for Life help students talk with people on the campus to make the pro-life position more well known. Another way is volunteering at pregnancy centers or organizing fundraisers for pro-life institutions. By standing as a witness to life students can be an example to others. Many pro-choice people are very concerned about the quality of life of the

mother and child. Helping support mothers is not only good in itself but also gives credit to the pro-life position and makes it more attractive. This good-intentioned concern for women should be channeled into helping them. If people see that pro-life people are the side helping women as opposed to killing them in the womb, there will be less support for “choice”.

If people are not informed on abortion they will likely be in favor of it, it is the obligation of those capable to talk with others about it. With constitutional referendums being passed, largely in the absence of real opposition, people must stand up and be the voice of opposition. College students are in many ways more well-equipped to have these discussions. Colleges have a large platform to initiate change and are a great place to voice concerns, students are easily capable of making a real change both within their community and the country at large.