Reviewer's report

Title: a question of choice

Version: 1 Date: 23 April 2011

Reviewer: Mary Ann Castle

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Gene Grabiner's article “A Question of Choice”
Mary Ann Castle’s comments.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The abstract should be expanded as follows: The first sentence should have the words “United States” after “constitutional privacy rights”. It should add a sentence to the effect that “The article presents a brief historical review of state control over women’s bodies—or a similar statement.”

2. In the introduction section, 6th line – right after the word “use intimidation tactics” violence should be added – so it would read “use intimidation tactics, violence, and attempts

3. Under the section entitled “The Economics of Anti-Choice” the third paragraph that discusses the effects of federal legislation on women’s access to abortion in Washington DC—the sentence should explain that…” recent Federal legislation bars the District of Columbia from funding abortions with local taxes because it includes the government of the District of Columbia as part of the Federal Government

4. Under the section Hypocrisy and Anti-choice – it may possibly be renamed Hypocrisy, Anti-Choice and Violence ---- and a few sentences on the violence against physicians (and clinic staff) in the US should be mentioned. Something like…” Many anti-choice groups believe in violence as illustrated by the murders of physicians who provide abortion care to their patients, i.e., the recent murder in Missouri of Dr. George Tiller and past murders of a physician in Buffalo, NY and a physician and his escort in Pensacola, Florida.

5. Under the paragraph “Racism and Anti-Choice” – last sentence -- .....”placed giant billboards in the state of Georgia” – the words “and elsewhere” should be added to the sentence.

6. In the concluding section, 2nd paragraph: I don’t think that the first sentence is accurate – it would be so if the phrase “the family planning service delivery system” was changed to “state public health systems” are not conducive to promoting, etc. etc.

Minor Essential Revisions

The author can be trusted to make these. For example, missing labels on figures, the wrong use of a term, spelling mistakes.
• Discretionary Revisions

These are recommendations for improvement which the author can choose to ignore. For example clarifications, data that would be useful but not essential.

Please note that both the comments entered here and answers to the questions below constitute the report, bearing your name, that will be passed on to the authors and published on the website if the article is accepted.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests Mary Ann Castle