

Family



Research Council

Gary L. Bauer, President

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Dear Friend:

On January 22, our nation will mark the 24th anniversary of the Supreme Court decisions that elevated a choice for death to the level of national policy. In *Roe v. Wade* and its companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, seven men dressed in black robes delivered a cruel blow that continues to reverberate throughout our land. Those seven Justices, arrogant and unelected, elevated abortion on demand to a status of grand constitutional privilege. The chilling effects of their ruling have not stopped even to this day, as a culture of death continues to descend across this good and decent land.

Just how deeply a nation can sink into a depraved indifference to human life was vividly illustrated recently in Delaware. There, prosecutors charge, two unwed college students -- Brian Peterson, Jr. and Amy Grossberg -- entered a hotel for the express purpose of giving birth to their firstborn son. What happened next, prosecutors say, is horrible to contemplate. On a cold November night, the child was placed in a plastic bag and dropped outside in the hotel dumpster, where maintenance workers later found his body. The dead baby had a fractured skull and other injuries that the coroner attributes to blunt-force head trauma and shaking.

Reaction to this case has been extraordinary. Many columnists have noted the fact that Brian Peterson and Amy Grossberg are among those society would call its "fortunate souls." They come from well-to-do families; they have had the best of everything. As *The New York Times* reported it, they "grew up where many teenagers have their own cars and secure futures, where gardeners tend landscaped lawns and shrubs[.]"¹ They do not live in some remote, forsaken corner of the world, or in a culture where out-of-wedlock childbearing is rare or scorned. They come from prosperous families in a populous state (New Jersey), at a time when unwed pregnancy is so common that, apparently, no one at Amy Grossberg's college even discussed with her the fact that she was clearly on the verge of childbirth.

These young people are entitled to the legal presumption of innocence, of course, so we will withhold our judgment for now about what happened in that hotel room. But we don't have to wait to