

Parental Consent Laws

By Sarah

What concerns me the most about parental consent laws is the fact that the government is becoming directly involved with the private issues of a young woman and her family. The government is in effect mandating good parenting. This thought is both terrifying and angering. Many republicans claim to be for “smaller government” which allows them to cut important programs for the poor and disadvantaged, but when it comes to the issue of abortion they radically increase the power of the government to oversee a woman’s decision about her own body. This is the largest expansion of governmental power that I have seen in my lifetime. The fact that a group of white men has expanded the jurisdiction of the government to encompass my body enrages me.

Parental consent laws do this as well by thrusting my parents into my decision. How can you get past the fact that a girl who was raped by her father and became pregnant as a result, would have to ask her abuser if she could have an abortion? How could you make her jump through judicial hoops, stand before a judge, and tell her painful story? When are we going to start trusting woman enough to allow them to make their own ethical decisions?