

Law Offices

ALLRED, MAROKO & GOLDBERG

A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

6300 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

SUITE 1500

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90048

(323) 653-6530

FAX (323) 653-1660

www.amglaw.com

NATHAN GOLDBERG*

MICHAEL MAROKO*

GLORIA R. ALLRED*

JOHN S. WEST

DOLORES Y. LEAL

R. TOMÁS OLMOS

RENEE MOCHKATEL

MARGERY N. SOMERS

RAMIT MIZRAHI

CHRISTINA CHEUNG

*A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Open Letter to Representative Todd Akin

August 23, 2012

Dear Representative Akin,

This week you gained notoriety because of your scientifically inaccurate statements that appear to suggest that women could not become pregnant as a result of “legitimate rape” and your suggestion that rape could be legitimate. Your clear opposition to abortion in cases of rape was offensive and dangerous and caused a furor within the Republican Party. Many Republicans, both in Missouri and nationally, asked you to end your campaign and your race for the U.S. Senate seat in Missouri.

Please do not withdraw. I urge you to stay, so that we can all continue to be reminded of your clear record of seeking to eliminate a woman’s right to legal and safe abortions and Representative Paul Ryan’s similar record on these issues as well.

Both of you for example proudly sponsored H.R.212 which, if passed, would have given a fertilized egg as many rights as an adult woman and if signed into law, could have prohibited most abortions.

In addition, your political twin on abortion, Representative Paul Ryan, now the presumptive Republican nominee for Vice President, has sought to limit abortion funding to cases where the woman's life is in danger or "pregnancy is the result of forcible rape or incest".

With all due respect, or should I say lack of respect, what about situations involving the crime of statutory rape (sex with a minor who cannot legally consent), what about rape of a woman in a coma, or rape of a woman who lacks the mental capacity to consent, or rape of a woman who is placed in fear by threats, or rape of a woman who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and therefore has no ability to consent?

Both Representative Ryan and you appear to think that some rape survivors must be prohibited from obtaining an abortion. The voting record of both you and Paul Ryan demonstrates that you both believe that only those rape survivors who were raped using force should be able to have abortions or obtain health insurance coverage for them.

Let me say it loudly and clearly. What you both propose is dangerous to a rape victim's life and health. Rape is rape.

I hope that you both stay in the race so that we can continue to shine a light on your extreme and dangerous views.

Weather reports say a hurricane may be headed to Tampa, the sight of the Republican convention next week, but here is a news flash.

The real hurricane is the one you have unleashed with your attempts to restrict the rights of rape victims and their right to an abortion.

I hope that this political hurricane ultimately sweeps both of you out of office so that the laws that you have sought to impose on women and girls will no longer be able to carry the grave risk of destroying their lives.

Very Truly Yours,

Gloria Allred

Attorney at Law