

Letters: A uniquely American freedom threatened in Iowa

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Making decisions about your own body is an American freedom

It's OK to oppose abortion. Abortion is abhorrent to so many people, and I respect that. The beautiful thing about choice is we get to pick if we would or wouldn't. It's the freedom of being an American.

However, [that choice is being challenged in the Iowa Legislature](#) (/story/news/politics/2020/02/13/iowa-senate-passes-anti-abortion-constitutional-amendment/4748213002/), and I'm begging people to care about that challenge. Iowa Republicans continue to push for an Iowa constitutional amendment saying Iowans don't have the "right" to abortion.

This proposed amendment, if passed and voted into law, would directly violate America's most sacred value: freedom. The effort is an attempt to overturn Roe v. Wade. We all know this, and many cheer that effort on. But I must ask everyone who supports that effort: Do you have a right to your own body?

Many will respond, "What about the rights of the baby in the womb?" What many forget is the womb is a uterus, which is literally another human being's body part.

We have bodily autonomy for a reason. It is the epitome of liberty and freedom. We get to pick what happens to our bodies, and the government doesn't get to insert itself in our bodies without our permission. We get to choose.

The question is if we want to make abortion dangerous, to make it inaccessible, and to criminalize people who simply want liberty. I know I don't want to put more people into overcrowded prisons just because they made choices about their own bodies based upon liberty and freedom.

More: [Stories from Iowa women remind us why Roe v. Wade has saved lives](#) (/story/opinion/editorials/2019/05/30/iowa-women-reminder-legalized-abortion-saves-lives-des-moines-register-editorial-roe-v-wade/1256649001/).

— Seeta Mangra-Stubbs, Des Moines

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If you love Iowa and pigs, it's the right thing to do

The use of Iowa's waterways move out the harmful toxins in manure and commercial fertilizers in the summer months when people are using the lakes and the rivers for recreation is hurtful to Iowa's communities' efforts to attract residences and tourists.

Currently, state law allows the concentrated animal feeding operation companies and operators to set aside nuisance regulations like dust, smell, flies and noise. This was done to help the fledgling hog industry get a foothold in the state and to not have to argue each site selection in court. I think the fledgling days are over.

We need the rivers, streams and lakes to be clean and because Gov. Kim Reynolds has decided to diminish the impact of a sales tax increase to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund by cutting existing program funds, we actually have no new money for clean water.

Towns like Eldora have been getting pounded for years by the wealthy families in the state who control the CAFO industry hiding behind farm nuisance exemptions that are no longer needed to help the industry get a foothold. So if you love pig farming, like I do, you'll limit your herd size and help pass meaningful legislation to clean things up that are already being polluted. It's the right thing to do for Iowa.

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