

ArgusLeader.com

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Voices

Letters: Practice contraception

April 12, 2011 - Tuesday

Robert F. Lyons

Kennebunkport, Maine

Six recent letters in the Argus Leader since the passage of HB1217 clearly indicate the matter of abortion is not settled in South Dakota. Although the letters display a wide range of opinion from "A child is a child" and "Wrong bill at the wrong time" to "Why are men not included," "Abortion law violates rights," "Protect existing children" and "Women are being judged," a critical fact is missing.

The abortion rate in South Dakota would be dramatically reduced if contraception was rigorously practiced. HB1217 should be amended to require that a man must go with his pregnant female partner to the state-approved pregnancy help centers and that a part of the script for the counseling session would include the prescription: "Contraceptives should be used on every conceivable occasion." (Spike Mulligan, Irish writer).

Is that too much to expect from all those mostly male legislators in my home state?