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ADMIRATION, ALONG WITH LOTS OF DISAPPOINTMENT!

By Stephen L. Bakke  September 4, 2017



Here's what provoked me:

A truly talented columnist for the Des Moines Register wrote a bit of a knee-jerk column which seemed to question two GOP women's fitness for entry into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Her name is Rekha Basu and almost always frustrates conservative readers. But she's good at what she does. I decided to react by sending an editorial letter to the newspaper.

Here's my response:

Admiration, along with Lots of Disappointment!

Rekha Basu is a wonderfully talented journalist in politics, culture, social justice and much more. I admire her. I respect her opinions, even when I adamantly disagree (which is often). I must express my disappointment with her column of 8/30, "Sisterhood allows applauding Ernst, Reynolds."

That column was an acknowledgement of Gov. Kim Reynolds, and U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, who along with others were honored by the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. Basu's acknowledgement of these two Republicans was done reluctantly as evidenced by this statement: "But it's fair to ask, what if supporting women, or being a woman, means nothing to the honoree? Should that disqualify her?"

One of Ms. Basu's biggest objections to these two women appears to be their stand on abortion rights, and the related funding dilemma faced by Planned Parenthood. Basu takes a passionate stand for a woman's right to abortion. I suggest reading her 3/31/17 column which asserts that the phrase "life begins at conception" is a myth.

Most pro-lifers are honestly sincere about the definition of life and the right to life of children in the womb. Is Ms. Basu beginning to lean toward excluding them from entry into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame? I hope not!