Position Papers

Talarico Claims Bible is 'Silent' on Abortion, Says 10-year-old Girls 'Need Abortion Care'

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Catholic professor pushes back during town hall event



Democratic U.S. Senate candidate James Talarico
Brandon Bell/Getty Images

Texas state Rep. James Talarico returned to the campaign trail Wednesday with a CNN town hall event in which he sat face-to-face with voters to respond to their toughest questions — including on the topic of life in the womb.

In a one-on-one exchange with Jodi Hunt, a farmer and Catholic theological professor from Burleson, Talarico made a number of controversial comments in what marked his first live broadcast event since he stayed out of the public eye for nine days while he recovered from what he said was a bout with the flu.

Talarico, who faces Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton in a closely-watched U.S. Senate race, took on a number of controversial issues, including voter ID, Israel, and immigration.

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Here are four of Talarico's claims from the abortion conversation:

1. **Claimed the Bible is 'silent' on abortion**

   When challenged by Hunt on his message to "one-issue voters" like herself, Talarico repeated his claim that "the Bible is silent on the issue of abortion."

   "You know, we're both Christians and and the Bible is silent on the issue of abortion," said Talarico. "It means you and I both have to look at at different scriptures to try to come to a conclusion."

   Talarico's claim drew a direct rebuttal from Hunt, who said, "...I just want to add that the Bible is not silent on abortion. There is the Ten Commandments: 'Thou shalt not kill.' And as Catholics, we take great insult, I guess sometimes, when it's spotted that way."

   Talarico, a Presbyterian seminarian, made a similar assertion in May, which drew condemnation from Evangelical leaders like Franklin Graham.

2. **Linked 'fewer unplanned or unwanted pregnancies' with 'fewer abortions'**

   Arguing that he believes the issue of abortion is a "public policy problem" rather than a theological question, Talarico appeared to contradict himself when he advocated for both fewer "unplanned or unwanted" pregnancies and fewer abortions.

   "This is what drives me crazy about this debate is, we use it to kind of beat each other over the head, right?" said Talarico. "We treat it as a philosophical debate or a theological debate when actually it's a public policy problem, because I also want to see fewer unplanned or unwanted pregnancies. I want to see fewer abortions."

   He added that while he and voters like Hunt might have "different moral conclusions when it comes to this particular ethical question," they both "actually have the same public policy goal."

3. **Claimed 10-year-old girls 'need abortion care'**

   In one portion of the exchange with Hunt, Talarico criticized Texas state law, which, in 2022, made performing an abortion a felony punishable by up to life in prison.

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Calling the law an "extreme abortion ban," Talarico pointed to what he said was a "need" for 10-year-old girls to get an abortion.

"We currently see in Texas women dying in emergency room parking lots from sepsis because their doctors are too afraid to provide life-saving care," he said. "We talk about Texas women, but it's also Texas girls. We see girls as young as 10 years old who need that abortion care and they can't get it in Texas."

Talarico then offered his own definition of "pro-life," adding, "If we are authentically pro-life, I think we should be disturbed by the outcomes of this extreme abortion ban."

4. **Called for 'age appropriate' sex education to reduce abortions**

As the CNN town hall conversation on abortion came to a close, Talarico made a bipartisan gesture towards voters like Hunt in calling for "scientifically valid" and "age appropriate" sex education to help reduce demand for abortion.

"If we can join together to make sure that we have scientifically valid sex education, age appropriate sex education, if we can make sure that folks who need contraception can get it, if we can make sure everyone has healthcare, something the Catholic Church has led on, then we know that that reduces the number of abortions," he said. "Because you can look at the research and you see that certain policy levers like sex education, like healthcare can actually reduce the number of abortions. And that's what I'm willing to work with you on."

Talarico, who in the past has suggested that there are more than two sexes and that God is "non-binary," walked back his previous comments in September and said he would "absolutely" vote in favor of a national ban on sex-change surgeries for minors.

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https://www.christianpost.com/news/talarico-challenged-over-claim-that-bible-is-silent-on-abortion.html

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