



Adriaan DeVilliers

For a Better District 71

Private Reproductive Rights

I strongly believe that strangers have no place at all in prescribing what women should do regarding their own health and reproductive rights. We are not a theocracy and not an autocracy. Like men, women should have the freedom to make their own health and welfare decisions.

This is a topic deeply affected by religion and it would be good to recall that our founding fathers, all immigrants, left Europe to get away from authoritarianism and religious persecution by the church imbedded in government. This, above anything else, is why our constitution was written to guard against that. Our constitution clearly forbids our government from both promoting one religion over others and from restricting an individual's religious practices, i.e. to be neutral. If religion guides the reproductive decisions of one person, that person's morals should not be forced onto others with different views.

The recent out-of-touch legislation approved under the DeSantis government hit the low income and under privileged communities the hardest. This is doubly so when considering that Florida has been declining federal Medicaid health insurance that would help hundreds of thousands of our people. This is simply put, due to political stupidity.