



Our Genes / Our Choices

Making Better Babies



In the future, parents might be able to select certain genes for their children. Faye Wattleton, president of the Center for Gender Equality, and professor Adrienne Asch discuss the importance and challenge of reproductive rights.

FAYE WATTLETON:

Well, reproductive rights, the centrality of it, is that parents have options. And that those choices should be guided by their ethical framework. And by the circumstances of their lives. That's the essence.

As science has advanced and given us more knowledge it has demystified biology. And we know now that we do have the capacity to control more than we did before. And yes, we should be able to take advantage of those options.

ADRIENNE ASCH:

Here is where I think Faye's right. If we're going to have reproductive technologies, people get to make the decisions they want to make. But they need to get to make them in the context of a society that supports all kinds of decisions. And that supports the legitimacy of people with musical gifts and Turner's Syndrome and Cystic Fibrosis, all being legitimate people to be born if people want to bear and raise them.