

RESOLUTELY PRO-LIFE

Many medical entities, such as the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have caved in on the crucial issue of abortion. They have largely abandoned the physicians' original Hippocratic Oath that pledged "I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion."

Not so the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), which was founded in 1943 as a nonpartisan professional association of physicians from all medical practices and specialties. The AAPS continues to espouse a solidly pro-life position. For instance, the third plank of its principles of medical ethics asserts that the physician "should not condone the taking of human life in the practice of his profession, but at all times respect the sanctity of human life and seek to preserve or improve the quality of life."

During its 60th annual meeting from September 17–19, the AAPS reiterated its stance with a hard-hitting resolution captioned "Affirming the Sanctity of Human Life." For the record, it is reproduced here in its entirety:

WHEREAS: the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons stands on the principles of the Hippocratic Oath, which oath clearly opposes abortion of a developing human child;

WHEREAS: teachings of the major religions of the world have opposed abortion of a developing human child until very recent times;

WHEREAS: even if religion is removed from the issue of abortion of a human child, without life as the ultimate ethic, no objective ethical standard remains;

WHEREAS: the unborn child in the womb meets the definition of a human being, and people's choices are limited by government when those choices would harm another human being;

WHEREAS: the purpose of abortion of a human child is to destroy the life of the child, in contradistinction to other terminations of pregnancy to save the life of the mother, in which an attempt would also [be] made to save the life of the child;

WHEREAS: our society will not permit a woman to terminate the life of her unwanted child after birth, despite its total dependence, even in the privacy of her own home in consultation with her physician; and

WHEREAS: the public's right to know and to make an informed decision about abortion of a human child has never been made possible by the opportunity to view various methods of abortion at different stages of gestation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons supports the right to life of human beings from the moment of conception to natural death.

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