

September, 2002

Dear Fellow Physician,

We are physician members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are writing to ask you to join us in a statement to the 215th General Assembly (2003) regarding late term pregnancy and abortion including partial birth abortion. We are hopeful that you will encourage other Presbyterian physicians whom you know to join us as well.

The 214th General Assembly (2002) voted to reverse the moral opposition to the abortion of babies who could live outside the womb that it had expressed in 1997. While most Americans--even those who are "pro-choice"--express moral outrage at procedures that take the lives of babies close to delivery, and the U.S. Congress has voted twice to ban partial birth abortions, the Presbyterian Church (USA) appears to have joined a small radical minority that cannot find a point in pregnancy when it is morally wrong to take the life of an unborn child.

Our professional knowledge and experience, as well as our faith, leads us to heartily disagree with the decision of the 214th General Assembly. We want to urge the General Assembly to reconsider the decision it made last year and reclaim the moral stand it took only a few years ago. You will see our statement on the attached petition that affirms that the lives of viable babies ought to have the protection of the moral voice of the Christian Church. When a pregnancy is in trouble, those babies can be delivered instead of being aborted. Delivery serves the best medical and spiritual interests of both mother and child.

It is our intent to see that commissioners to the next General Assembly are presented with this petition and that it includes as many Presbyterian physician names as possible. It is our additional hope that the wording of this petition will be used to overture the next General Assembly to restore its prior position on late term abortion.

If you are in agreement with the enclosed statement we hope that you will allow us to use your name on this petition. We also hope that you will help this effort by encouraging other physician members of your church or presbytery to join you in signing the petition. Please return the signed petitions to the office of Presbyterians Pro-Life at the address below, and no later than April 3, 2003.

May God bless your efforts to preserve life.

Sincerely yours,

Howard C. Filston, M.D.
Patricia Lee June, MD
Robert F. Pegues, M.D.

