# Comments From The President,

I am a Pediatrician. I have seen children born too soon, weighing barely a pound, kicking and crying, fighting to survive. I have felt them grabbing my fingertip, sleeping peacefully. I have gently turned babies no bigger than your outstretched hand; and watched their mothers thrill to hold them, frightened and yet awed by their features, their tiny hands and precious feet.

If I had torn one loose from her mother and casually dismembered and crushed her, you would be horrified, and rightfully think me both insane and criminal. If, however, I dismembered and destroyed her first, and them tore her loose from her mother - - would you stand idly by and think I had nobly preserved a need for "choice", a right of "privacy"? Of course you could not think such blatant nonsense. But are you standing idly by?

Embryology knows nothing of trimesters. Life continues from life, and birth simply separates two lives from one another. conception only occurs between living cells. "Potential Life" occurs between a man and a woman; the result is life, with potential.

There was a deplorable time in our country's history when financial interest held sway over right and wrong, leading to the incredible rationalization that slaves were not fully persons, and that others should thus be allowed to choose for them. Today abortion is a half-billion dollar industry, the unborn baby is considered not fully a person, and the sanctimonious, selfish cry is "choice." The love of money is the root of all . . .

What if organized medicine decreed that your doctor must abandon the Hippocratic Oath and be forced to learn and perform this killing?

We, the members of Alabama Physicians for Life, still hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, and that among these are life. . . We ask you to consider for a moment the implications of the abrogation of that right by another individual's choice; for the sake of convenience, to avoid any consequence, and in the name of the almighty dollar. We ask you - - I ask you - - not to stand idly by, but to stand in the gap, to stand for the truth *Kenneth Lee Elmer, M.D., F.A.A.P.*

# What Doctors Say About The Pre-Born Child

## *. . . The Utmost Respect For Human Life*

The continuing debate on abortion has generated an atmosphere in which the biological facts may be ignored or can be forgotten. As physicians, we wish to bring to the attention of all interested parties scientific facts about which there can be no reasonable doubt.

A human ovum fertilized by a human sperm produces a biologically identifiable human embryo. That embryo contains all the essential biological material and genetic information required for complete cellular maturation, human tissue and organ development.

The developing fetus is not a sub-human species with a different genetic composition. As clearly demonstrated in "in vitro" fertilization, so also in "in vivo" fertilization; from the time of fertilization, the embryo is alive, human and unique in the special environmental support required for that stage of human development.

Individual human growth and development are a continuum from a precise starting point. Biologically speaking, the embryo is to the infant as the child is to the adult. The infant is no less human than the adult. The biological changes of human maturation are predictable and are determined by the human genetic code.

*As physicians, we support the concept that dignity is due human life from fertilization (conception) to the moment of natural death. This sentiment is neither new nor unique. It is evident in the pledge against abortion in the ancient Hippocratic oath written over two thousand years ago, as well as in every one of the United States laws restricting abortion prior to the U.S. Supreme Court decision (Roe v. Wade) of January 22, 1973.*

This conviction was also found in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1959, which points to the need for "special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth." It is clearly stated in the World Medical Association's "Declaration of Geneva" in 1948, as follows: "We will maintain THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE from the time of conception."

*We urge all those engaged in the abortion debate to recognize that a central issue in the discourse must include acceptance of the fact that induced abortion causes the death of a living human being.*

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The statement on this page was first drafted by Dr. Joseph R. Stanton of Needham, Mass., a graduate of Yale Medical School and a former associate clinical professor at Tufts Medical School. Since it's release in 1984 this statement has received the endorsement of hundreds of physicians across the nation, among whom were two past presidents of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist: Drs. Frederick J. Hofmeister and Richard T. F. Schmidt. The physicians whose manes appear on this page offer their complete support. Hopefully, your family physicians also endorse this statement. If they do, congratulate and thank them often. They will greatly appreciate your thoughtful support.