

NAPN POLICY STATEMENT ON INFANTICIDE

WHEREAS, the decision to withhold or withdraw treatment from premature, sick or deformed infants is being made in delivery rooms and neonatal units in the United States each day,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Association of Pro-Life Nurses maintains that all infants, regardless of handicap or "wantedness" have the right to treatment, food and water.

And WHEREAS there is a segment of our society that declares that newborn children are not persons deserving of the protection of the constitution,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Association of Pro-life nurses declares that an infant's worthiness does not come from potential productivity or the right genetic make-up, and that the National Association of Pro-life Nurses will always regard these newborns as fully human and endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights. NAPN will always support and defend nurses who care for infants requiring nursing care and protection regardless of the infant's condition.

And WHEREAS some courts have allowed infanticide on many hushed as well as highly publicized cases,

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Pro-life Nurses deplores the judicial negligence which allows the unwarranted neglect and starvation of newborn infants. Nurses are increasingly the primary care-givers for newborns and the National Association of Pro-life nurses will support and defend any nurse who refuses to participate in infanticide, even if it means disobeying his/her supervising nurse or administration and will offer moral and, if necessary, legal support for a nurse whose position is jeopardized in any way because of such refusal,

And WHEREAS many nurses are also counselors of families with newborns,

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Pro-life Nurses will encourage all nurses to promote and facilitate humane, safe options in taking care of a child with a handicap such as adoption and agency referrals.

Adopted at general meeting October 27, 2000
Approved by general vote April, 2001