

Resolution

on In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

Whereas, it has been proven beyond reasonable scientific dispute that the union of a human sperm and human ovum produces a living human being; and

Whereas the humanity of each individual is not in any way affected by the circumstances surrounding human conception, location, state of genetic perfection (or imperfection), or stage of development; and

Whereas human life at every stage of biological development is deserving of respect and protection; and

Whereas, in vitro fertilization (IVF) has, as a documented matter, included the discarding of embryos, the freezing of embryos, experimentation on embryos, and there is no guarantee that these attacks on innocent human life would not continue; and

Whereas, in vitro fertilization poses significantly increased risks and hazards to developing human life, including high failure rate after transfer of the embryo to the uterus; and

Whereas, in vitro fertilization involves continuous monitoring and testing, both before and after transfer of the developing embryo, with the probability of increased eugenic abortions either mandated or encouraged; and

Whereas, current extensions of IVF programs using donor eggs and sperm, host mothers, and embryo transfers depersonalize and dehumanize the process of human generation and pose formidable legal and ethical dilemmas; and

Whereas IVF bypasses, rather than assists the natural process of human generation, rendering procreation a laboratory procedure, with the resulting embryos considered as products of this procedure rather than human beings deserving of the utmost care and respect; and

Whereas, the Kentucky Right to Life Association realizes the deep sorrow and frustration experienced by infertile couples, and empathizes with their desire to become parents; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that Kentucky Right to Life Association urges further study and research into the disturbing social, moral and legal issues involved with this technique, and into the causes and treatment of infertility; the promotion of public awareness regarding the relationship of sexually transmitted disease, use of the IUDS, abortion, tubal ligation, vasectomy, and the age of the mother to infertility problems; and also urges the dissemination of information on currently available "in vivo" treatments including laser surgery of Fallopian tubes, the Estes operation, and low tubal ovum transfer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kentucky Right to Life Association urges a halt to in vitro fertilization research and procedures pending public hearings on, and General Assembly reconsideration of, KRS 311.715, hastily passed without adequate deliberation at the close of the legislature's 1984 session.

Resolution passed by the Kentucky Right to Life Association Board of Directors September 9, 1984.