

2019 Resolution on Abortion

WHEREAS, the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution affirms that no state shall deprive any person within its jurisdiction equal protection under the law, including life, and liberty, and therefore the life of a baby in its mother's womb;

WHEREAS, this year the Illinois General Assembly passed and Governor JB Pritzker signed into law the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) which repeals several long-standing restrictions on abortion and declares the choice to have an abortion a "fundamental right;"

WHEREAS, Exodus 20:13's statement, "Thou shall not kill" applies to babies in their mother's wombs;

WHEREAS, Deuteronomy 30:15-16 states: "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply;"

WHEREAS, Genesis 1:28 states: "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth," therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting in Marion, Illinois, November 6-7, 2019, affirm the belief that the church and society have a responsibility to protect the sanctity of human life by passing laws that protect the unborn who cannot protect themselves, and call upon churches to work together to call for legislation that will remove the tragedy of abortion in our state, and finally be it

RESOLVED, that we call upon churches to work together to minister to women carrying children and considering abortion, by providing families, programs, and funds that support adoptive care.

2017 Resolution on Illinois House Bill 40 Providing Tax-Payer Funded for Abortions

WHEREAS, Governor Bruce Rauner signed into law September 28, 2017 House Bill 40 which provides tax-payer funded abortions through Medicaid and the state employees' health insurance plan; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 40 also amends the Illinois Abortion Law of 1975, which regulated state abortion law in conformance with the legal standards of decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 40 includes the removal of language declaring an unborn child is a human being from the time of conception; and

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us all human life is created in the image of God, and therefore sacred (Gen. 1:27, Gen. 9:6, Psalm 139, Luke 1:44); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) states, “We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death;” and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message (2000) further states, “Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord,” (Psalm 139:13-16); and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists are committed to ministry that preserves life and supports young women who find themselves in problematic pregnancies through the outstanding work of the Baptist Children’s Home and Family Services and other ministries; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of IBSA churches and pastors consistently teach a biblical view of life and counsel wise decisions by families that affirm life; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, we the messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting in Decatur, Illinois, November 8-9, 2017, call upon the Governor and the state legislature to repeal Illinois House Bill 40, believing taxpayers’ money should not be used to fund abortions in any circumstance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists will continue to support the rights of the unborn with prayer, ministry actions, and public resolutions opposing abortion, and will seek to winsomely persuade all citizens, including elected officials, that all human life is God-given and sacred, and should be protected by moral and righteous government.