

1                                    **Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians**  
2                                    **2015 General Assembly**

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5    **RESOLUTION NO. 5**

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7    **Late Term Abortions**

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9    **Submitted by: Wayne Gravois, MD**  
10                                   **Melvin Bourgeois, MD**  
11                                   **Paul Rachal, MD**  
12                                   **Walter Birdsall, MD**

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15    **WHEREAS**, late term abortions occur in a very small percentage of elective abortions in the  
16    United States, and

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18    **WHEREAS**, the mission statement of the American Academy of Family Physicians is to improve  
19    the health of patients, families, and communities by serving the needs of members with  
20    professionalism and creativity, and

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22    **WHEREAS**, this should include those aborted infants that could live outside of the womb, and

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24    **WHEREAS**, women who undergo elective abortion have a higher incidence of long term  
25    emotional and mental problems, therefore, be it

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27    **RESOLVED**, that the LAFP is against performing abortions 20 weeks and after, and further be it

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29    **RESOLVED**, that the LAFP submit a resolution to the AAFP Congress of Delegates to set such  
30    policy to also not support or endorse late term abortions in the United States.

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33    **Background Information**

34    The American Academy of Family Physicians believes physicians should seek to, through  
35    extensive patient education and counseling, decrease the number of unwanted pregnancies.  
36    However, should a woman become pregnant, it is her legal right to make reproductive decisions.

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38    The AAFP endorses the concept that abortion should be performed only by a duly-licensed  
39    physician in conformance with standards of good medical practice as determined by the laws  
40    and regulations governing the practice of medicine in that locale.

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42    No physician shall be compelled to perform any act which violates his/her good judgment or  
43    personally held moral principles. In these circumstances, the physician may withdraw from the  
44    case so long as the withdrawal is consistent with good medical practice.

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46 The woman considering an elective abortion should be informed adequately of the potential  
47 health risks of both abortion and continued pregnancy. The physician also should provide to the  
48 pregnant patient either:

- 49 • Information regarding:
  - 50 ○ financial and other assistance available to her;
  - 51 ○ financial and other assistance available to a child; and
  - 52 ○ the availability of licensed and/or regulated adoption agencies should she choose -
  - 53 not to keep the infant(s); and
  - 54 ○ the availability of safe, legal abortion services (as illegal abortions are known to be
  - 55 associated with significant maternal morbidity and mortality) should she choose not
  - 56 to continue the pregnancy; OR
- 57 • Identify resources where such information can be obtained.

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