

Against Forced Abortion

Item: 19-04: On Taking a Stand Against Forced and Coerced Abortions.

GA Committee Assignment: 19- Health Issues

Summary of the business and what it wants the Assembly to do:

The Presbytery of Prospect Hill asks the 219th General Assembly to stand with all women against the injustice of any forced or coerced abortions.

Background:

It is helpful to know that this overture is in agreement with the denomination's latest social witness policy statement on abortion (1992), *Problem Pregnancies and Abortion*. The rationale of the overture contains the pertinent quote from the policy document which says, "no law should condone mandatory or forced abortion or sterilization."

Analysis of the business and how it would affect the Church:

If approved, this overture would raise awareness that current PC(USA) policy, although considered to be a pro-choice position as to abortion, does speak directly against the use of force or coercion to pressure a woman to abort her child. It would serve as a reminder to the Washington Office and other advocacy arms of the church that they ought to work toward legislation that protects women from those who would coerce or force them to have an abortion.

Pertinent Resources:

Problem Pregnancies & Abortion, Minutes of the General Assembly, 1992.

"Forced Abortion in America" by the Elliott Institute available at: <http://afterabortion.org>

Action by GA that will help the Church:

Approve

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An Advisory on Business to the 219th General Assembly (2010)

From the Joint Renewal GA Team