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**Statement of Pro Familia Hungarian Scientific Society**  
**on "Protection of human life from conception" proposed in the**  
**conception of the constitution in the making**

Pro Familia Hungarian Scientific Society (hereinafter called as PFHSS) is a professional organization founded in 1975, member of the Association of Hungarian Medical Societies and accredited member association of the European Network of International Planned Parenthood Federation.

PFHSS due to the objectives identified in its statutory tasks, has reviewed many government policies, draft regulations and laws in connection with family planning and reproductive health issues and formulated opinions over the past three and a half decades – strictly adhering to professional views but dispensing with ideological or political grounds. As a consequence PFHSS feels called upon to express its official position on the above question and bring its opinion to the attention of decision-makers.

Studying the draft constitution the Society regards the protection of the foetus from conception a respectable effort.

International research shows that changes in the number of abortions does not principally depend on the restrictions, but in the short and medium term, on the economic situation of families and the stability of family policy while in the long run on the education of children and young people on the moral and managing life.

The current law is of a qualified, permissive legislation that considers the existence of crisis situation leading to abortion as an issue of the decision based on conscience of the woman or the couple, and takes into account the individual's and the couple's right of autonomy, as well as aims at giving every assistance through the Family Protection Services in order to keep the baby.

In case the protection of foetal life will be part of the constitution it has to be ensured that the current law in Hungary does not become unconstitutional.

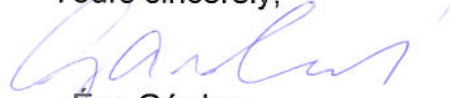
In our view the proposed phrasing („The dignity of human life is inviolable. Every human being has the right to life and human dignity, the life of the foetus shall have the right to be protected from conception.”) meets these criteria. However, with the following rephrasing it would become unambiguous. The part about the protection of foetal life should be in a separate sentence so as to read: “The dignity of human life

is inviolable. Every human being has the right to life and human dignity. The life of the foetus shall have the right to be protected from conception.”

We suggest the consideration of our proposal in formulating the constitution.

Budapest, 4 April 2011.

Yours sincerely,



Éva Gárdos  
president

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