

AMA Endorses Same-Sex Adoptions

*AMA Delegate Says Group is
Moving Away from a "Conservative Agenda" in Favor of "Science"*

The American Medical Association voted 316-130 in June to approve a resolution endorsing adoption of children by gay couples, or adoption by an opposite-sex partner who functions as a second parent in a non-married family situation.

The resolution was offered by the Medical Student Section of the AMA. The statement says, in part: "...having two fully sanctioned and legally defined parents promotes a safe and nurturing environment for children."

It also resolves that the American Medical Association should support legislation that would further this social aim.

According to Dr. David Fassler, a delegate from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, "All the scientific evidence points to no differences among children raised in heterosexual or homosexual families."

Fassler says the AMA resolution is evidence that at last, "the AMA is moving away from a conservative agenda

and into areas where policy is based on science."

"To say that one side of the debate is based on politics, and the other one on science, is a false presentation of the debate," says NARTH's Joseph Nicolosi. "Values issues are at the heart of *all* of these matters—how each research study is designed, how its results are interpreted, even how we define the basic concepts of mental health and illness.

"There is indeed a neutral 'scientific method,' which is the means we use to gather and study data," Nicolosi continued. "But in defining concepts, evaluating data, and assigning value to that data, neither side can ever call itself philosophically neutral and say it represents pure 'science,' with the other side representing an 'agenda.'"

"Thus Dr. Fassler's claim is simply disingenuous—making it ever more clear to the clinicians at NARTH that we need an open and comprehensive professional debate." ■