

Association of State Correctional Administrators

Proposed Resolution # 23 – Health and Well-Being of Pregnant Inmates

WHEREAS the population of women incarcerated in U.S. prisons and jails has grown significantly over the past two decades;

WHEREAS pregnant inmates have unique healthcare needs, which sometimes are addressed in other than a correctional institution;

WHEREAS the health of a pregnant inmate and her unborn child is a paramount concern to correctional and medical staff;

WHEREAS ASCA's member agencies have policies and procedures that reflect their concern for the safety, health and well being of pregnant inmates and the safety of staff and the public;

WHEREAS ASCA's member agencies already have established policies and procedures restricting the use of physical restraints on pregnant inmates;

WHEREAS physical restraints are only to be used to protect the pregnant inmate from harming herself or others, and in such a manner as authorized by medical staff;

WHEREAS it is not possible to craft legislation to cover the variety of conditions and circumstances under which pregnant inmates might require some form of physical restraint;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

ASCA endorses the use of physical restraints of pregnant inmates only when absolutely necessary to protect the pregnant inmate from harming herself or others, and only in such a manner acceptable to and authorized by medical staff attending the pregnant inmate.

All staff should be trained in and follow each correctional agency's established policy and procedures relating to the care, custody, and treatment of pregnant inmates.

This resolution meets the twin goals of properly caring for pregnant inmates and providing appropriate security. It is the position of ASCA that addressing these issues through legislation unnecessarily limits the options for correctional administrators to apply professional expertise in those exceptional circumstances where the interests of safety and security of all concerned and the health and well being of pregnant inmates may require unanticipated approaches consistent with the intent of this resolution.

Adopted by the Association of State Correctional Administrators –March 18, 2011

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