Introduction to Commentaries

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The following commentaries concern the murder of Dr. George Tiller. They are reflections of a prominent leader in the genetic counseling profession and a world renowned bioethicist. Both commentaries remind us what it means to be advocates for our patients even if we personally would not choose to walk the same path. We know that there are multiple paths and not every path is right for everyone. That is what choice means, right?

I very much want to recognize and honor those genetic counselors who personally struggle with the abortion issue. It is a choice that many could not see themselves making. However, many counselors who, although personally disagreeing with the choice to end a pregnancy, still find it within themselves to support patients who make that choice. This is true empathy—the ability to enter another's world of pain and walk in their shoes for awhile. It is so

difficult to enter someone else's world to understand life from their perspective and that is the challenge we take on with each and every patient. What an incredible skill to have and what an honor to be allowed into the lives of others. Genetic counseling is a really amazing career.

I have no doubt we all agree Dr. Tiller's murder was horrible. I wanted to acknowledge that. Although we don't necessarily personally agree with the option of abortion, these commentaries remind us there are personal views and professional views, and we must not lose sight of our professional views. This is what we do to best serve our patients.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM: The NSGC, as an organization, publicly supports a woman's right to reproductive freedom, including her right to prenatal diagnosis and access to safe and legal abortion (Adopted 1987).

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