

**Submitted for Consideration to the
Annual Meeting of the
American Academy of Family Physicians
Spring, 2001**

TITLE: CORPORATE PERSONHOOD

Introduced by Dr. Rian Podein, Philadelphia, PA

WHEREAS, The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America states “No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law,” and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment was added to the Constitution in 1868 to protect freed slaves, and

WHEREAS, personhood is the legal status of human beings granted to the corporate entity by the Supreme Court in *Santa Clara County vs. Southern Pacific Railroad* 1886, and

WHEREAS, personhood made corporations persons with constitutional protections, under the Fourteenth Amendment, and

WHEREAS, the illegitimate power and authority of corporations to govern, including limited liability and virtually limitless rights, has accumulated from personhood status, and

WHEREAS, the illegitimate power and authority of corporations usurps democracy and sovereignty, and

WHEREAS, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black in a 1938 opinion stated, “I do not believe the word ‘person’ in the Fourteenth Amendment includes corporations,” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians believes that the word ‘person’ in the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America excludes corporations.