



Impacting Reproductive
Care Worldwide

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House Committee on Children and Families
201 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chair Coleman, Vice Chair Bailey, and Minority Member Ingle, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to [HB 1991](#) which would curtail the reproductive rights of the residents of Missouri.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the art, science, and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

ASRM is concerned that HB 1991 could have unintended consequences on the treatment of infertility and people undergoing treatment for fertility preservation in Missouri. By equating a recently fertilized egg, still in a medical facility and not yet transferred into a person's body in hopes of establishing a pregnancy, with a fully formed child, this bill may threaten the ability of physicians to safely perform In Vitro Fertilization and related procedures in accordance with best medical practices.

For example, this bill could prevent a physician from cryopreserving (freezing) fertilized eggs and embryos, an essential component of fertility care. Multiple gestations and multiple births are very dangerous for mothers and children. Current standard of care calls for the transfer of only a single embryo into the woman. During in vitro fertilization, multiple embryos are often created and are cryopreserved for later use in order to maximize prospects for a successful pregnancy, decreasing procedure numbers and cost for the woman. The goal is the transfer of only one embryo to create a healthy, successful pregnancy. The remaining embryos are stored for future usage or, if requested by the woman or couple, donated or discarded when their families are complete. Unlike fully formed human beings, embryos can be safely cryopreserved for years. HB 1991



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could allow a person to sue for child support for a fertilized egg for every year it is in a freezer in a laboratory, even those that, when they are later tested, are found to be nonviable. The financial burden on families, or couples or women desiring to start their families, could be catastrophic.

Human reproduction is a very inefficient process. Without medical assistance, fewer than 20% of fertilized eggs will implant in the uterus and lead to the birth of a child. Treating the fertilized egg as legally equal to a born, living human being could create unintended, dangerous consequences.

I strongly urge you to oppose the passage of HB 1991.

For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, our Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at Stipton@asrm.org or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Marcelle I. Cedars, MD
President
American Society for Reproductive Medicine