



Impacting Reproductive  
Care Worldwide

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Washington House Health and Wellness Committee  
John L. O'Brien  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA

Dear Chair Riccelli, Vice Chair Bateman, and Ranking Member Schmick,

On behalf of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I write in strong support of [HB 1151](#), the Washington State Building Families Act.

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.

One in eight individuals or couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, racial identities, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, and religious affiliations. Many medical conditions can impact fertility, which is why ASRM and other medical organizations all recognize infertility as a disease. As such, infertility, like other diseases, should be covered by health insurance so that Washingtonians can access the care they need to build their families.

HB 1151 addresses the inequities many face when building their families. Because medical intervention using donor gametes is necessary for same-sex couples to have a baby, the lack of insurance coverage creates an unfair financial burden on this population. As well, analyses by both the CDC and Pew Research Center reveal startling racial disparities in fertility treatment. HB 1151 will improve access to care and outcomes for currently underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities.



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For these reasons and more, I urge the Committee to support HB 1151.

For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, ASRM's Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at [Stipton@asrm.org](mailto:Stipton@asrm.org) or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Michael Thomas**  
**President**  
**American Society of Reproductive Medicine**