



Impacting Reproductive
Care Worldwide

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House Committee on Judiciary
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Chair Dalby and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to [HB 1174](#) which would curtail the reproductive rights of the residents of Arkansas and leave many without access to vital family planning care.

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.

Arkansas already has some of the most restrictive abortion bills in the nation. By defining a person as including an unborn child at any stage of development “from fertilization till birth,” HB 1174 could have unintended consequences on the treatment of infertility for those Arkansans seeking to grow their families. By equating a recently fertilized egg still in a medical facility with a fully formed child, many infertile persons in Arkansas may be unable to utilize In Vitro Fertilization and related procedures in accordance with best medical practices.

In allowing the government to intervene in the sacred relationship between a patient and physician, passing HB 1174 would only make access to critical reproductive care more difficult and, indeed, dangerous. For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose the passage of HB 1174.

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Thomas



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