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Chevis Shannon, DrPH, MPH, MBA, MERC Chief Education & Science Officer The Honorable Mark Gordon 200 W 24th Street Cheyenne, WY, 82002

Dear Governor Gordon,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to <u>HB 152</u> which would curtail the reproductive rights of the residents of Wyoming 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.

Wyoming 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 conception," HB 152 could have unintended consequences on the treatment of infertility for those Wyomingites 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 Wyoming may be unable to utilize In Vitro Fertilization and related procedures in accordance with best medical practices.

The banning of multifetal reduction, a medically necessary process provided by maternal-fetal medicine specialists, would pose a grave risk to Wyoming mothers who would be forced to carry nonviable fetuses to term, putting their own lives and the life of the remaining fetus in danger. Statistics show that, in a high-risk pregnancy, reducing the pregnancy by one or more fetuses decreases the spontaneous pregnancy loss rates in cases of all multifetal pregnancies.

In allowing the government to intervene in the sacred relationship between a patient and physician, passing HB 152 would only make access to critical reproductive care more difficult and, indeed, dangerous. For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you not to sign HB 152 into law.



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Chevis Shannon, DrPH, MPH, MBA, MERC Chief Education & Science Officer For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at <a href="Stipton@asrm.org">Stipton@asrm.org</a> or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Thomas, MD

President

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

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