



Impacting Reproductive  
Care Worldwide

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Tennessee State Senate  
Subcommittee on Judiciary and Government  
425 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North Room 506  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Subcommittee Chair Lafferty, Vice Chair Rose, and Minority Member Campbell,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to [SB 204](#) which would curtail the reproductive rights of the residents of Tennessee.

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 SB 204 will have unintended consequences on the treatment of infertility in Tennessee. 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 threatens the ability of physicians to safely perform In Vitro Fertilization and related procedures in accordance with best medical practices.

For example, this bill will 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 without increasing the risk for a multiple pregnancy and without the need for multiple risky egg retrieval procedures. Moreover, for women about to undergo lifesaving treatments for cancer, treatments which may otherwise render them unable to have children, embryo cryopreservation is the best way to preserve their ability to have children once their cancer has been treated. Banning



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cryopreservation will eliminate the opportunity for these cancer survivors to have children.

In addition, other techniques in which the fertilized egg is tested, in order to avoid genetic or chromosomal disorders, could be threatened by the current language of this bill. SB 204 could endanger the creation and protection of healthy Tennessean families.

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 will create unintended, dangerous consequences.

We strongly urge you to oppose SB 204.

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

Sincerely,  
Marcelle I. Cedars, MD

President  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine