

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
500 East Capitol Avenue Room 413  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Chairman Rusch, Vice Chair Duhamel, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) we are writing to urge your support of SB 137: An Act To Establish Gestational Surrogacy Arrangements and Agreements.

The American Society for Reproductive (ASRM) has, for nearly a century, been the global leader in multidisciplinary reproductive medicine research, ethical practice, and education. ASRM's approximately 8,000 distinguished members, which include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, mental health professionals and others, represent more than 100 countries and impact and inform all aspects of reproductive care and science worldwide. In our role, our focus is on serving both our members, our patients, and the children born as a result of assisted reproductive technologies.

SB 137 bill would provide important access to surrogacy services to many of the citizens of South Dakota who might need them. Gestational surrogacy is a collaborative reproduction process involving the incredibly generous act of a woman agreeing to carry a pregnancy for intended parent or parents. Most often surrogacy agreements are entered into when the intended parent is unable to carry a pregnancy due to a serious medical condition, prior surgeries like hysterectomy, or congenital abnormalities. In some cases, a surrogacy agreement is used by a gay couple who wishes to build a family but cannot do so on their own. ASRM has developed national professional guidelines for infertility practices utilizing gestational carriers to ensure that when the medical process is over and a child is born, the legal rights and status of all parties is clear — the ones who intend to be parents of the child need to be recognized as parents, and the rights of the donors and surrogates who want to help but have no intention of being a parent, are protected. SB 137 adheres to all of these guidelines, ensuring that the creation of a family is safe, and the process is clear.

We urge you to support this excellent and important proposal.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Cedars", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marcelle I. Cedars, MD

President