September 24, 2019

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) we are writing to oppose the nomination of Sarah E. Pitlyk to the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, mental health professionals and others.

We are very concerned about Ms. Pitlyk’s very long track record of working against Americans trying to build families through assisted reproductive technology (ART).

Ms. Pitlyk has argued both medically and ethically untrue statements, none of which are based in science, in multiple legal briefs. She argues that gestational surrogacy “harms women and children” and “diminishes respect for motherhood and the unique mother-child bond, encourages exploitation of women, and it commodifies pregnancy and children.” False arguments such as this seek to undo the progress we have made in the medical community treating those suffering from infertility.

Infertility is a devastating disease. Collaborative or third-party reproduction is sometimes considered by couples or individuals who themselves lack the healthy eggs, sperm, or uteruses they need to have children. The use of gestational carriers is an important therapeutic modality for patients. For some, it is the only safe way for them to build their families.

ASRM is afraid that Ms. Pitlyk will be unable to separate her personal views from her rulings from the bench in these and other important matters related to reproduction.
As such, ASRM vehemently opposes Ms. Pitlyk’s nomination to the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of Missouri and encourages the Senate Judiciary Committee to do the same.

Sincerely,

Peter Schlegel, MD
President, ASRM