



Sacred Heart *Guardians and Shelter*

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February 21, 2020

RE: Please Oppose H.B. 0214 (HB0214S01): Insurance Coverage Modifications

Dear Esteemed Members of the Utah Senate,

I am the founder and director of Sacred Heart Guardians and Shelter (SHG), a charitable mission that reaches out to IVF laboratories and offers to provide burial for the embryonic human beings who die in their labs. The lives of 100s of 1000s of human beings start and end in IVF labs every year and are routinely disposed of as medical waste. My work with SHG grew out of my role as a product manager of IVF networks and a managed infertility benefit at a national health and wellness company.

It is good to want an end to diseases like cystic fibrosis and sickle-cell anemia. These diseases can cause tremendous pain to the afflicted person and heartbreak for their caregivers, to say nothing of the financial stress of expensive treatments. I listened (online) to Representative Last as he shared the struggles endured by his granddaughter, Rosie, and the financial burden her treatments put on their family. I was moved by his tenderness, and it is obvious that Rosie has a team of powerful advocates working on her behalf. All vulnerable people should be so fortunate.

For reasons I can't quite comprehend, this bill has passed, unopposed, both the House Business and Labor committee as well as the House floor. While I am sure this bill is well-intentioned (it expresses the desire for healthy families and Medicaid affordability), one of two things must be happening:

- 1) Voting representatives **do not understand how IVF works**, or
- 2) Voting representatives **approve the state-sanctioned killing of human beings** if they are seriously ill or their care is expensive, and their medical expenses are covered by the state.

IVF does not do what Representative Ward purports. IVF does not *prevent* disease. IVF *creates a human being** (actually, a multitude of human beings per each IVF cycle) *who is killed if he or she is found to have the disease*. The IVF industry calls this "discard," but what is actually happening is that the living human being is removed from the embryology lab incubator, brought to room temperature, and thrown out as medical waste.

If you oppose killing a human being *in utero*, then you would naturally oppose killing it when it's in a lab dish. The only difference between two such human beings is geography.

This bill presents additional dilemmas. When the state is fiscally responsible for medical expenses, can it:

- 1) Indicate which, or how many, embryonic children the beneficiary can have transferred?
- 2) Ask an otherwise healthy woman to undergo a drug protocol known to have serious medical risks?
- 3) Expand the list of diseases and conditions at will?
- 4) Sanction the termination of human beings at any other point in gestation?

I implore you to do what has not yet been done: take a closer look at how IVF works.

Oppose H.B. 0214. Do not make Utah a state where it is OK to create, test, and kill human beings because they are sick or expensive.

Most sincerely,

Laura Elm
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*An egg is a reproductive cell. A "fertilized egg" is a human being. Other terms encountered in IVF which pertain to human beings include: embryo, zygote, morula, blastocyst, "pre-embryo," tissue, and specimen. With the exception of the last three terms, these terms refer to developmental stages of the youngest human beings. We use them the same way we use the terms "infant," "adolescent," or "adult." The last three terms are an unfortunate outgrowth of an industry well known to be lacking in transparency and oversight.