



### **Opposition Statement HB95**

Health Care Providers – Assisted Reproductive Treatment –  
Informed Consent and Fraud  
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**We oppose HB 95.**

**On behalf of our Board of Directors and followers across the State, Maryland Right to Life opposes procedures that allow for the destruction of human life and procedures that commoditize the human being.**

**This bill reduces the creation of human life to “human reproductive material.”** A fertilized ovum is a newly created, unique human being. The In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) process involves the fertilization of multiple eggs. Because an individual or couple may choose not to implant all of the fertilized ova, those remaining could be frozen indefinitely or destroyed. Putting a person in a freezer certainly disregards the dignity of the human being and literally puts their life on hold. Creating human lives and then destroying them also reduces the value of the human person to a decision of wanting or not wanting the baby. **Nothing in this bill explicitly states that the information given for informed consent must be medically accurate or comprehensive.**

**The female donor of the ova is often overlooked in this process.** IVF diminishes the woman to being merely a source of “human reproductive material.” However, she is also a patient. To donate her ova (eggs), she must inject herself with hormones over a period of 10 to 12 days and then undergo surgery, which includes anesthesia, to retrieve those eggs. Every female is born with a finite number of eggs. When a girl reaches puberty, her eggs start to develop. When an egg matures, ovulation occurs (see link from National Library of Medicine below). The egg is either fertilized and a life begins or the unfertilized egg is expelled through menstruation. A woman’s eggs do not all mature at the same time. Every menstrual cycle decreases the number of eggs available for a woman to conceive a child. Likewise, donation of the eggs would decrease a woman or girl’s availability of eggs for conceiving a child in the future. The process of egg retrieval can vary on the number of eggs released which means there is not a good way to predict how many eggs the woman or girl will lose.

Many women and girls have forgotten the biology or are unaware that they have a finite number of ova and could be exploited to sell their eggs. One of my daughters was approached while in college to sell her eggs for \$5,000. We discussed the implications of this so she could share this information with her friends who were also being approached. You can see how vulnerable women and girls could easily be exploited, especially poor women and girls. Due to the Reproductive Freedom Amendment, minor girls are now vulnerable to exploitation of their eggs for money. Here are some of the problems:

1. Informed Consent – Do they minimize the risks so they can obtain her eggs and profit from IVF and other fertilization or experimental procedures? (see link for article from National Library of Medicine)



2. The hormone injections affect all of the eggs in the ovaries; therefore, the eggs that are not released will have matured and will continue to age. This is another factor that will affect the woman or girl's ability to conceive and carry a baby to term.
3. The hormone injections carry an increased cancer risk for the woman or girl (see link for article from National Library of Medicine).
4. Does the donor know whether the eggs will be used to help a woman conceive or will the eggs be used for experimentation?

**There is danger for the woman and/or couple trying to conceive a child.** Women and/or couples who have failed to conceive a child on their own or through less invasive methods are now at the mercy of these clinics. Here are some of the issues:

1. Informed Consent – Do the businesses reveal all the information surrounding IVF including the risks and the care of the babies that are not implanted? If the recipient is undergoing egg retrieval, does she understand the cancer risk? Does she understand the physical risks of IVF?
2. Are the participants fully informed about the procedure? - how many eggs could be fertilized, what happens to the embryos they do not use
3. People who are desperate to have a child can be exploited by the clinic by minimizing the risks and omitting information that would discourage the prospective parents.

IVF businesses put profits over people. One round of IVF can bring in a minimum of \$30,000. According to IBISWorld.com, industry-wide revenue grew at an average annualized 5.5% over the past five years and are expected to total \$9.9 billion in 2024, when revenue will jump by an estimated 1.5%.” In other words, IVF is a money maker.

**We ask that you protect human life at its earliest stage, and protect women and young girls from predatory practices that put their lives in jeopardy. For these reasons, we respectfully ask you to oppose HB95.**

Physiology, Ovulation

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28723025/>

Egg Donation: Issues and Concerns

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20453588/>

FSH enhances the proliferation of ovarian cancer cells

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23580589/>

Buying and selling human eggs

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27825378/>

Short and long-term risks

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19929571/>