



FAST FACTS: CONCERNS WITH EXPANDING IVF IN THE NDAA

Family Research Council recognizes that every person is inherently valuable and created in the image of God and that the millions of children born as a result of in-vitro fertilization (IVF) are an incredible blessing to their families and our society. At the same time, we acknowledge that many millions more lives have been lost than have been gained in the process of human life being made in the laboratory. Here are a few of the moral and ethical concerns with expanding IVF in TRICARE in the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

EXPANDING IVF IN THE NDAA FURTHERS THE ROUTINE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN EMBRYOS

- In the United States, approximately 4.1 million embryonic children were created via the IVF process in 2021,¹ but only 97,128 of those children were born,² meaning that only approximately 2.3 percent of the embryos created resulted in a live birth.³
- It is estimated that there are roughly 1.5 million frozen embryos in the United States.⁴
- IVF frequently employs genetic testing. Typically done to screen for sex or genetic conditions (some businesses offer screening for eye color as well),⁵ genetic screening is used to select embryos both to transfer to the mother's uterus (or discard/freeze/donate) or "selectively terminate" (abort) post-transfer. Over 80 percent of businesses offer the option to select a child based on sex.⁶

EXPANDING IVF IN THE NDAA OPENS UP A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF TAXPAYER-FUNDED HORRORS

- Because of anonymous donation of sperm or eggs, there have been numerous reports of people learning they have 50+ half-siblings.⁷
- Chimeras could be created through the use of IVF. In 2019, scientist Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, in partnership with Primate Biomedical Research in China, created the first human/monkey chimera using IVF. Although this embryo only progressed to 19 days, the creation—and the likelihood that more will be created or have been created in secret—sharply increases the ethical risks of promoting IVF without prohibiting chimeras.⁸

EXPANDING IVF IN THE NDAA VIOLATES PARENTS' RIGHTS

- There are few, if any, legal safeguards or enforcement mechanisms to prevent IVF businesses from creating and discarding excess embryos, with or without parental consent.
- It is impossible to guarantee that IVF businesses will act in accordance with the wishes of their clients. In fact, there are at least 50 documented examples of IVF doctors *not* acting in good faith and using sperm other than what the woman/couple intended.⁹ The Alabama case (*LePage v. The Center for Reproductive Medicine*) was brought by parents whose rights had been abrogated by the IVF industry, which responded by demanding statutory immunity.

EXPANDING IVF IN THE NDAA ENABLES UNREGULATED SURROGACY

- Unlike adoption, there are no background checks for adults seeking a surrogate, and there is no follow-up on the well-being of children carried by a surrogate.
- Surrogacy poses risks to women. Some surrogates are trafficked; some have been rendered infertile because of the process; some have died as a result of surrogacy; others suffer emotionally as a result of the process.¹⁰
- The child is separated from his or her birth mother, and this significantly increases the stress level for the newborn baby.¹¹ Surrogacy intentionally violates a child's natural right to know his or her parents.

EXPANDING IVF IN THE NDAA FAILS TO TREAT THE NON-SERVICE-RELATED CAUSES OF INFERTILITY

- Because of the failure to treat the underlying cause of infertility, only about 23 percent of women utilizing IVF end the process with a live birth.¹²
- Restorative reproductive medicine (*e.g.*, NaPro, FEMM, the Billings Ovulation Method) looks for the underlying cause of infertility and treats it. These methods have a success rate of over 60 percent.¹³



ENDNOTES

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