



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

June 13, 2024

Dear Senator:

We have written multiple times since February with respect to the suffering of those experiencing infertility, the need to support authentic restorative reproductive medicine, and the destructive practices of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) industry.¹ We therefore write now to express our support for the *Reproductive Empowerment and Support through Optimal Restoration (RESTORE) Act*, our opposition to the *Right to IVF Act* (S.4445), and a renewed call for Congress to reorient its focus toward policies that would support mothers and children in need and strengthen maternal health.

As discussed in our prior letters, too many people experiencing infertility are placed on a costly track toward IVF that does not actually address their underlying conditions. Restorative reproductive medicine, on the other hand, involves a more comprehensive (and ethical) approach that can frequently heal patients and yield more effective outcomes.² We are thankful for the introduction of the *RESTORE Act* as a positive step toward building more public data, awareness, knowledge, and support for restorative reproductive medicine.

The *Right to IVF Act*, meanwhile, would manufacture a new federal right and problematic health insurance mandate to support the underregulated and lucrative IVF industry – which kills and freezes countless embryonic human beings, our brothers and sisters, often in a eugenic manner; commodifies children, donors, and surrogates; and can even produce worse health outcomes for women and children.³ Further, it would steamroll protective state laws that stand in its way, and include definitions of “fertility treatment” and “assisted reproductive technology” that, beyond IVF, could include cloning, even of deceased persons. This legislation must be opposed.

As these bills are considered this week, we recognize that the Senate leadership’s offering of the latter is part of a planned series of objectionable proposals, including the *Right to Conception Act* last week, that do not meaningfully advance good policy – even for their own proponents.⁴ Rather, they serve only to deliberately and continually stoke partisan passions surrounding human life and sexuality, now two years after the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Dobbs* ruling. This is an especially cynical, political response for any women who find themselves in

¹ See, e.g., <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-senate-opposing-access-family-building-act>; <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-congress-pro-life-appropriations-priorities-fy25>; and <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-senate-opposing-ivf-protection-act-june-7-2024>.

² *Ibid.* (citing sources).

³ *Ibid.* (citing sources).

⁴ See Stef W. Kight, “Scoop: Senate Democrats plot reproductive-rights blitz,” *Axios*, May 22, 2024, available at <https://www.axios.com/2024/05/22/senate-democrats-plot-reproductive-rights-blitz>.

material or emotional need during an unplanned pregnancy.

A truly better course would be for policymakers to come together and make progress on policies that place children and families first, strengthening the public aspect of our solidarity with vulnerable mothers in need. We renew our plea for members of Congress to advance the many such policies that we articulated in 2022, shortly after the *Dobbs* decision, including strengthening the child tax credit, paid parental leave, support for nutrition and health programs, and much more.⁵ We also urge additional focus on resolving the maternal health crisis in our country, terribly affecting both women and children, and reiterate the principles that we expressed in this regard just last month.⁶

We encourage you, in addition to advancing the *RESTORE Act* and rejecting the *Right to IVF Act*, to heighten and pursue these latter priorities to serve families and the common good.

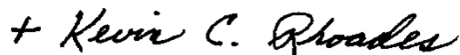
Sincerely,



Most Reverend Robert E. Barron
Bishop of Winona-Rochester
Chairman, Committee on Laity,
Marriage, Family Life and Youth



Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life
Activities



Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Chairman, Committee for Religious
Liberty

⁵ <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-congress-regarding-policies-support-women-and-families-october-26-2022>.

⁶ <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letter-congress-maternal-health-may-8-2024>.