

### UPDATE FOR OCTOBER, 2022:

Illinois House bill 5779 would classify the creation and obliteration of human embryos as a fundamental right for residents of this state. This bill was introduced in August. It could come up for consideration at the Illinois legislature's veto session which will be held Nov. 15-17 and Nov. 29-Dec. 1. It could also come to the floor at a "lame duck" session of the legislature, which will be attended by present lawmakers on Jan. 4-11, prior to the start of the new legislative session at noon on Jan. 11.

The bill would amend the state's so-called Reproductive Health Act. This act currently assures Illinois residents on-demand abortions. The pending bill would add the classification of assisted reproductive technology as a fundamental right for adults in Illinois. Assisted reproductive technology includes in vitro fertilization and a number of other techniques that aim to create children outside of the normal biological way. The bill would also prohibit Illinois from regulating the storage and destruction of embryos. For additional information on the bill, see the article at <https://thefederalist.com/2022/10/25/illinois-bill-would-allow-residents-to-manufacture-unlimited-embryos-and-destroy-them-all/>

From an e-mail message from Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life:

Here's a piece I wrote some time ago about the ethical concerns of IVF: <https://lutheransforlife.org/article/is-in-vitro-fertilization-ethical/>

Also here's a podcast we put together on the topic:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1140737/6655657-life-minded-4-in-vitro-fertilization-embryo-adoption>

And here are a few of its medical dangers for mother and child:

- IVF often begins before any testing or treating for fertility disorders.  
<https://www.pennmedicine.org/updates/blogs/fertility-blog/2018/march/ivf-by-the-numbers>  
<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/in-vitro-fertilization/about/pac-20384716>
- Also, not every embryo formed survives, and not every embryo transferred from the lab to the womb implants.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/art/pdf/2016-report/ART-2016-National-Summary-Report.pdf>
- More than ten percent develop ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome.  
[https://www.fertstert.org/article/S0015-0282\(16\)62781-4/pdf](https://www.fertstert.org/article/S0015-0282(16)62781-4/pdf)
- Some seventy-five percent of IVF cycles fail, and only seven-point-five percent of embryos fertilized survive to birth.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/art/pdf/2016-report/ART-2016-National-Summary-Report.pdf>
- Or technicians accidentally introduce the wrong embryos into the client's uterus.  
<https://www.today.com/health/lack-oversight-regulations-may-lead-ivf-mishaps-t157872>
- Research indicates IVF increases the chances of adverse pregnancy outcomes for both mother and child.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep35141>

- The rejection of unattractive embryos and the choosing of donor gametes amounts to eugenics.  
<https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/human-testing-the-eugenics-movement-and-irbs-724/>
- Experts estimate over one million IVF embryos currently reside in frozen prisons.  
<https://www.elle.com/culture/a12445676/the-leftover-embryo-crisis/>
- Current state regulations, where they exist at all, treat these as transactions wherein property changes hands.  
<https://embryoadooption.org/2015/07/what-is-the-law-regarding-embryo-donation-and-adoption/>

Surrogacy, in addition to involving the same ethical concerns as IVF, has several others as well:

- current law treats little ones like property
- reduces women's bodies to commodities
- exploits impoverished women and suffering couples for profit
- can involve coerced abortion (if adverse diagnosis or multiples implant)
- may place child with unfit parents
- illegal in European Union, India, Nepal, Thailand, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Washington, and DC (inconsistently regulated in many states)
- prioritizes adult desires over child's rights
- invites eugenics

Other "reproductive health technologies" – such as germline genetic editing (using CRISPR/Cas9), mitochondrial replacement therapy (three-parent children), in vitro gametogenesis (engineering stem cells to turn them into sperm or egg), and ectogenesis (gestating fetuses in artificial wombs outside the mother's body) – are still extremely experimental and not only may involve unforeseen consequences but also require exposing embryonic human beings to those risks without their consent (human experimentation) while the practices develop and advance. As such, it seems a severe violation of prudence to include these measures in the legal definition of "health care" as a fundamental right, especially if that designation is accompanied by public funding.

Consider contacting your representatives in the Illinois House and Senate to advise them of concerns with House bill 5779.