

Massachusetts House Ways & Means
Chairman Paul R. Haley
State House
Boston, MA. 02133

RE: House 1833

Testimony in Support of
An Act Relative to the Treatment of Infertility

Dear Chairman Haley:

As the session draws to a close, I hope you will be able to afford the time to examine the issues that include, as well as go beyond, House 1833. There is a compelling litany of reasons to enact regulation of the fertility industry in general, and fertility clinics and personnel in particular.

For a short list: the public at large is being recruited for sperm and egg 'donation', the latter unaware and uninformed of the risks; fertile women are increasingly being prescribed fertility drugs and treatment, neither of which has been proved safe or efficacious; human embryo research is burgeoning; *abnormal embryos have been intentionally placed into women* undergoing in vitro fertilization (IVF); human embryo proteins are being patented; human blastocysts (fertilized eggs) are being cocultured in human ovarian cancer cells; the artificial womb and ectogenesis loom in the distance; eggs and embryos have been 'stolen' on both coasts and 'resold' to and from unsuspecting women; fertility drugs are solicited and sold on the Internet without the benefit of prescription (in violation of state and federal laws); Pregnancy Category X drugs ("fetal harm outweighs fetal benefit"), which are lacking in FDA approval for fertility treatment, are injected willy-nilly into women attempting to become pregnant - while the list of adverse events from assisted reproductive technologies (ART) continues to grow ... yet few large scale efforts to establish efficacy, safety, or short and long range effects of ART exist.

That the vulnerable, unsuspecting consumer needs protection should be obvious.

The task of protecting the Massachusetts consumer has resided in the State House since 1992. It is not acceptable that this profitable, exploitive, risky industry prevails in its design for "self-regulation". I do understand the intent to "partially" implement the 'Fertility Clinic Success Rate and Certification Act of 1992, but House 1833, with all its missing pieces, is far more appropriate and comprehensive in scope to the matters at issue.

As my previous testimonies in support of regulation of the fertility industry have indicated, there is a plethora of frightening issues surrounding 'reprotech' that needs attention. I would be happy to provide references, further information and/or meet with

the Committee should you have an interest.

And I would urge you to please vote favorably on House 1833.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Millican R.N., B.S.N.

July 26, 1996