

Legislation Committee

From: Leanne Brolsma [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2019 9:22 PM
To: Legislation Committee
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation,

We are writing to address your inquiry into the Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, which we understand will amend the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and the Surrogacy Act 2008 to enable male same-sex couples and single men to access surrogacy. We are strongly against surrogacy, as it is inherently going against God's Biblical design for the family, which consists of one biological mother, one biological father and their child/ren. This mother and father are to raise this child/ren together. By permitting single and same-sex attracted men to pursue the option of surrogacy, children are deprived of their biological mothers, who are crucial to a child's development in life.

Moreover, surrogacy in general prevents a normal attachment to develop between the biological mother and father and their unborn child whilst in the womb, as well as creating an unusual and abnormal attachment between the surrogate mother and unborn child. This has significant risks associated for both the biological parent/s, surrogate mother, and the child. Children are meant to be cherished and loved as a gift, from the moment they are conceived in their own biological mother's womb, to the moment they are born and afterwards, not to be treated as an object to be handled in the manner wanted by their prospective parents through a surrogate mother.

It is telling that surrogacy has been totally prohibited for both men and women in many countries including Germany, Denmark, France, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia and Lithuania. Surrogacy creates significant ethical and moral issues, including but not limited to:

- Demands of abortion made after discovering that the unborn child had a disability or defect
- Abandonment of the newborn child after discovering that the child had a disability or defect
- Either party (the surrogate mother or prospective parent/s) pulling out of the arrangement
- Coercion of the birth mother, for example by refusing to take the child after birth

We wish you much wisdom as you consider the information you receive in relation to this Bill.

Yours faithfully,
Michael and Leanne Visser

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