

Resolution – Surrogacy

WHEREAS, Children have a right life; to their mothers and fathers; and to be born, not bought and sold.

WHEREAS, Only 7% of lab-created children (IVF is essential to surrogacy) will be born alive. Most will perish in forgotten freezers; won't survive "thawing," fail to implant; be discarded for being non-viable/the wrong sex; be aborted, also known as "selectively reduced;" or be donated to research. When you see stories of beautiful surrogate-born babies, keep in mind they are among the few who didn't die in the process. Most children created for the purpose of surrogacy will lose their right to life.

WHEREAS, Children suffer when they lose their birth mothers. Mothers and babies bond during pregnancy. Studies show that maternal separation, a feature of surrogacy, is a major physiological stressor for the infant and even brief maternal deprivation can permanently alter the structure of the infant brain. Many adoptees argue that their "primal wound" of maternal loss manifested as depression, abandonment/loss issues, and emotional problems throughout their lives. It hindered their attachment, bonding, psychological health, self-esteem, and future relationships.

WHEREAS, Children suffer when they lose their biological parents. Children have a right to be known, loved, and raised by their biological parents. Surrogacy routinely severs a child's relationship with his or her genetic mother and/or father through the use of sperm and egg "donation."

WHEREAS, Children raised by their married biological mothers and fathers are most likely to be safe and loved. While heroic step-parents do exist, overall the presence of unrelated adults drastically increases a child's risk of abuse and neglect. Statistically, biological parents are the most protective of and invested in children. Even if they aren't neglected or abused, children tend to feel less connected to unrelated adults.

WHEREAS, Adoption is an institution centered around the needs of children. #BigFertility is a marketplace centered around the desires of adults. Unlike adoption agencies, #BigFertility conducts no screenings of "intended" parents, placing children in unstable, risky, unmonitored households.

WHEREAS, Genetic parents are the only two people who provide something children crave- biological identity. A survey of adults conceived via sperm donation confirmed that biology matters.

WHEREAS, Many surrogate children will be denied the daily presence of a mother. Motherless children are deprived of the developmental benefits of gender complementarity and experience diminished outcomes as a result.

WHEREAS, In 2012, Theresa Erickson was found guilty of baby selling. She implanted surrogates with unrelated embryos and during their second trimester would solicit intended parents, claiming the original parents had backed out. She charged between \$100-150K per baby. Erickson's crime was not that babies went home with unrelated adults - a common occurrence for #BigFertility. It was that she signed the surrogacy contract *after* conception (child trafficking), not *before* ("helping to create a family"). Of course a post-conception contract can't alleviate a child's genealogical bewilderment, feelings of commodification, and mother-loss trauma. The largest study of children created via sperm donation, which carries a much smaller price tag than surrogacy, found nearly half agreed with the statement, "It bothers me that money was exchanged in order to conceive me."

THEREFORE, The _____ Party of Texas should adopt a plank on Surrogacy:

Plank #xxx. Surrogacy: We are opposed to surrogacy and the buying and selling of babies and wombs. Until surrogacy is prohibited, surrogacy clinics should be required to keep meticulous long-term records, to allow research to study and understand the long-term impact of surrogacy on the health and emotional well-being of children. Payments to the birth mother must be prohibited. Intended surrogate parents should undergo adoption-like screening and postplacement supervision. Mentally disabled women must not ever be used as surrogates. The freezing of human embryos must be prohibited.

A copy of this resolution should be sent to the _____ County/Senate District # _____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct # _____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the _____ Party of Texas.

Source: Them Before Us Fast Fact Sheet <https://thembeforeus.com/fast-facts/>