



Impacting Reproductive  
Care Worldwide

**Officers**

Catherine Racowsky, Ph.D.  
*President*

Hugh Taylor, M.D.  
*President-Elect*

Marcelle Cedars, M.D.  
*Vice President*

Peter Schlegel, M.D.  
*Immediate Past President*

Christos Coultfaris, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Past President*

Michael Thomas, M.D.  
*Secretary*

James Toner, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Treasurer*

**Administration**

Ricardo Azziz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Sean Tipton, M.A.  
*Chief Advocacy,  
Policy and Development Officer*

Dan Carre, C.P.A.  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Vickie Gamble, M.P.P.M.  
*Chief Operations Officer*

Chevis N. Shannon, DrPH, M.B.A.  
*Education and Science Officer*

Joint Appropriations Committee  
210 Capitol Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106

4/20/23

Dear Chair Osten, Chair Walker, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I write in strong support of [HB 6617](#), An Act Promoting Equity in Coverage for Fertility Health Care.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the art, science, and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

More than one in eight individuals or couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, racial identities, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, and religious affiliations. Many medical conditions can impact fertility, which is why ASRM and other medical organizations all recognize infertility as a disease. As such, infertility, like other diseases, should be covered by health insurance so that everyone in Connecticut can access the care they need to build their families.

HB 6617 addresses the inequities many face when building their families. Because medical intervention using donor gametes is necessary for same-sex couples to have a baby, the lack of insurance coverage creates an unfair financial burden on this population. As well, analyses by both the CDC and Pew Research Center reveal startling racial disparities in fertility treatment. HB 6617 will improve access to care and outcomes for currently underserved communities, including racial and ethnic minorities.



Impacting Reproductive  
Care Worldwide

**Officers**

Catherine Racowsky, Ph.D.  
*President*

Hugh Taylor, M.D.  
*President-Elect*

Marcelle Cedars, M.D.  
*Vice President*

Peter Schlegel, M.D.  
*Immediate Past President*

Christos Coultifaris, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Past President*

Michael Thomas, M.D.  
*Secretary*

James Toner, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Treasurer*

**Administration**

Ricardo Azziz, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Sean Tipton, M.A.  
*Chief Advocacy,  
Policy and Development Officer*

Dan Carre, C.P.A.  
*Chief Financial Officer*

Vickie Gamble, M.P.P.M.  
*Chief Operations Officer*

Chevis N. Shannon, DrPH, M.B.A.  
*Education and Science Officer*

For these reasons and more, I urge the Committee to support HB 6617.

For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, ASRM's Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at [Stipton@asrm.org](mailto:Stipton@asrm.org) or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

**Michael A. Thomas MD**  
**President**  
**American Society of Reproductive Medicine**