

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2008 7:24 PM

To: Surrogacy Committee

Subject: Altruistic surrogacy

I am emailing you to register my concerns about the matter of altruistic surrogacy. While it is regrettable that some people cannot have children of their own, it is my belief that society cannot "play God" and intervene in this matter via surrogacy. The fact that we may have the technical ability to do this does not make it morally or ethically right. No-one has the right to determine that a child will be born in such an atypical way.

Some of my concerns are for the child, that their conception will have quite negative impacts on them such as legal and relational consequences. Adoption is traumatic enough for most children to deal with let alone being conceived via surrogacy techniques. Also we will be creating a situation in which many adults may play a biological role in the child's birth and any of them could decide to make a "claim" on the child. Added to this are the fact that there could be significant genetic confusion for the child and anyone who needs to have a clear genetic history of the child (eg doctors). Apart from the biological difficulties, are the legal and social complexities of having many different "parents", including legal challenges to who is the "real" parent. Motherhood and fatherhood are a vital part of our human identity, and what it is to be human.

I am also opposed to surrogacy because in time it would allow access of babies to singles and same sex couples and we don't have the right to determine who should be placed into a single parent home or a same sex situation. People who choose these lifestyles have to accept that they have consequences for them. Children are not a commodity that adults can "buy" if rich enough or exert enough political muscle.

Whatever our philosophy of life, we have to accept that procreation is the natural right of the union of male and female only. Even though we may have the technical ability to produce babies via surrogacy, we do not have the moral or ethical right to do so. Expediency is never a reason to do what is immoral or unethical especially where human life is at stake.

Yours Sincerely

Barbara Coburn