Center for Advanced Reproductive Services
An academic affiliate of UCONN School of Medicine

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February 22, 2021

Re: Proposed Bill No. 6321: An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act

To: The Honorable Gary A. Winfield
The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom
The Honorable Alex Kasser
The Honorable Matt Blumenthal
The Honorable John A. Kissel
The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Connecticut General Assembly
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

I am proud to testify in support of **Proposed Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act**. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) will update the state's parentage law to promote the security of all children.

I am the Medical Director who has worked at the Center for Advanced Reproductive Services (CARS) since 1998. I specialize in caring for patients with infertility and patients who preserve their fertility prior to medical treatment such as chemotherapy. Many people in our state rely on the availability of assisted reproductive technologies (ART), such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF), to become parents. In fact, Connecticut has the second highest rate of birth through ART in the country.[1] As of 1984, over 13,000 babies had been born as a result of ART performed at CARS and we attribute about 1600 to LGBTQ families. To build their families, many of our patients rely on donor conception such as donor egg or donor sperm, or use the services of a gestational surrogate.

I am writing today to respectfully urge the committee to vote in support of: Proposed Bill No. 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act.

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The CPA provides a much-needed update to Connecticut law by clarifying who is a parent and providing paths for individuals who have children through assisted reproduction to establish legal parentage regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or marital status. It is critical for children – and their loving parents – to establish legal parentage as close to birth as possible. The CPA would ensure that children born through ART have a clear and sensible route to establishing legally recognized parent-child relationships. I also am pleased the CPA regulates surrogacy in ways that protect the interests of all parties involved: the intended parents, the woman who serves as a surrogate, and the child. The CPA treats the intended parents as legal parents, and it provides important safeguards to women serving as surrogates.

I have the privilege of getting to know the diverse, resilient families of Connecticut each and every day. The Connecticut Parentage Act would update Connecticut's laws to better recognize and protect the full range of children and parents in the state. Our state is a national leader in ensuring access to fertility care, and we should be a leader in parentage law, too. Voting in support of the CPA is a critical step.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter in support of Proposed Bill No. 6321. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Claudio Benadiva, MD
Medical Director
Center for Advanced Reproductive Services
2 Batterson Park Road
Farmington, CT 06032

[1] *State-Specific Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance*, CTRS. FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (Oct. 3, 2019), https://ww.cdc.gov/art/state-specific-surveillance/index.html.