

Members of the United States House of Representatives,

On behalf of our 1,200+ active groups and tens of thousands trained student activists across the nation, Students for Life Action urges you to oppose H.R. 345, the *Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act* and H.R. 1957, the *Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021*.

Following the leaked draft decision of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, Democrats in Congress have been scrambling to inject radical abortion policies into every facet of the federal government, starting with the extreme and deceptively titled *Women's Health "Protection" Act.* Now, they are looking to insert their life-ending ideologies into federal agencies such as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Veterans undoubtedly make tremendous sacrifices to defend the freedoms of the American people, for which we are eternally grateful. However, **one person's rights end where another's begins, and no innocent child should have their God-given right to life revoked through abortion or in vitro fertilization** (IVF).

If passed, H.R. 345, the *Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act* would force the VA to provide abortion "counseling" and local referrals, coercing veteran women to violently end the life of their preborn children. Military members deserve quality care that promotes their health and wellbeing, and the VA should be focusing on using the taxpayer dollars allocated to them to best achieve those goals. However, abortion is not healthcare. Abortion violently and intentionally ends the life of a preborn child and can cause the mother <u>significant harm</u> physically and emotionally. Additionally, the majority of Americans – <u>58%</u> – oppose taxpayer funding of abortion services.

H.R. 1957, the *Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021* is equally problematic, aiming to vastly expand infertility services to veterans by offering IVF to veterans and non-veteran partners. The IVF process consists of creating multiple human embryos - human beings - that may be indefinitely frozen, discarded, or destroyed. Although we recognize that some veterans may suffer combat injuries that result in the inability to naturally conceive a child, creating disposable designer babies through the <u>barely regulated</u> IVF industry is an unethical solution.

IVF services often include screenings of early human embryos in pursuit of the "perfect child." These screenings detect the likelihood of implantation success, chromosomal abnormalities like Down syndrome, and inherited genetic abnormalities such as cystic fibrosis. The children deemed "healthy and normal" are then implanted or frozen for later use, while the "unhealthy" and "less successful" leftover embryos are abandoned or even experimented on until death. Beyond perceived health and viability, 73% of U.S. fertility clinics verify the human embryo's sex, leading to children being thrown out because they're not the sex that their parents "ordered". This is not only inhumane, it's eugenics.

There are more than <u>one million</u> frozen human embryos in the U.S. Fewer than <u>8%</u> of lab conceived children will be born alive. This means that scientists create life through IVF with the knowledge that 93% will be intentionally discarded or die in the process. Additionally, IVF threatens <u>significant harms</u> to women and children, including egg-retrieval procedure complications like internal organ damage, miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, premature birth, birth defects, ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, cancer, etc.

Both H.R. 345 and H.R. 1957 present significant concerns for the conscience rights of American health professionals working at the VA. <u>Three-quarters</u> of Americans believe medical professionals should not be forced to perform abortions if they have religious exemptions. Similarly, we believe people should not be forced to provide counseling, referrals, or services related to what they know to be life-ending procedures.

Children are not commodities to be created, traded, and annihilated as desired. Both abortion and lab conceived children have ultimately contributed to a culture that believes "unwanted" human beings are expendable. It is incredibly disturbing that Congressional Democrats are obsessed with dehumanizing and destroying our most vulnerable population – the innocent preborn.

Our service members have fought tirelessly to protect the rights of the American people – chief among those is the right to life. Both active-duty military and veterans deserve quality care that improves their life and health. The destruction of their own children is absolutely antithetical to these values.

We are the Pro-Life Generation, so we **ask that you oppose H.R. 345, the** *Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act*, H.R. 1957, the *Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021*, and any other bill that threatens the lives of innocent preborn children.

Sincerely,

Kristan Hawkins

President, Students for Life Action

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