

**Prepared Testimony of
Eileen McNeil
President, CTV
House Judiciary Committee, House Bills 5207-5215
November 1, 2023**

Chair Breen and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Assisted Reproduction and Surrogacy Parentage Act, which includes House Bills 5207-5215. My name is Eileen McNeil, President of Citizens for Traditional Values (CTV) and I am here to share my deep opposition to HBs 5207 – 5215.

In June of 1988 Michigan Governor James Blanchard signed into law a bill stiff fines and jail terms for anyone who enters into or assists in developing a contract for a child between a surrogate mother and an infertile couple.

This bi-partisan law recognized the dangers of these surrogacy contracts that ended up exploiting women and de-humanizing children. The public outcry then, as today, was also the fact that most surrogate mothers are from lower-middle-class backgrounds and the adopting couples are usually affluent. As Jeremy Rifkin said "This turns children into a product and it turns women into breeders."*1

This scenario is even worse in 2022 as Michigan is already battling a human trafficking crisis and we know that Surrogacy for hire is the #1 factor in reproductive human trafficking.

This act opens the door wide for international "health tourism" and the exploitation of women and children. AND this bill package makes no provisions for increased law enforcement protection against such risks, making the most vulnerable even more vulnerable.

Michigan already allows volunteer surrogates, and that can still be a way for parents to have children. But to allow contracts that consider babies as property takes our laws that preserve human rights and human dignity BACKWARDS relegating the unborn to a mere commodity status that may be sold for profit or discarded (via abortion) if the buyer changes their mind.

Another option for parents that never gets mentioned is ADOPTION. There are more than 3,000 children in Michigan waiting to be adopted into permanent, loving homes to call their own according to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange which is funded by the MDHHS... BUT that's just one avenue of adoption... there are multiple private agencies who also provide adoption and foster care services. ON any given day in MI approximately 13,000 children are in foster care or a residential placement. Many of those will need to be adopted as well...

MI celebrates November as National Adoption Month and Adoption Day on Nov. 21st this year.

These are hollow celebrations if they are in name only.

The policies being set by this legislature are careening schizophrenically across the lives of our most precious resource – our children. On the one hand --Abortion is allowed at any time, by any one at ANY place – and yet now you want to create a cultural and LEGAL climate to allow baby selling and the exploitation of women’s wombs to bear those children.

Enough is enough. I ask that you oppose these abhorrent bills. Thank you.

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[1-Michigan Outlaws Surrogate Maternity Contracts; Ban Aimed at 'Baby M' Clinic - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/aug/23/interpol-japanese-baby-factory-man-fathered-16-children>

[Like Abortion, IVF Puts Selfish Desires Above Babies' Rights \(thefederalist.com\)](#)