

June 10, 2025

Gov. Joseph Lombardo  
606 Mountain Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89703

Dear Governor Lombardo,

As a coalition of organizations from Nevada and across the nation, we write to express our concern over SB 217, a bill which was passed in the final hours of the legislative session on a mostly party-line vote.

The bill would fabricate a statutory right to in-vitro fertilization in Nevada, mandating that public and private insurers cover the treatment.

We approach the issue of IVF from varying perspectives. While we are broadly supportive of the general principle of helping families struggling with infertility to conceive, IVF is bioethically and economically problematic. Healthcare must be sensibly regulated.

IVF involves surgically removing human eggs and injecting them with sperm in a laboratory. Because of the mixed success of creating a healthy embryo through this method, practitioners typically create 8-10 human embryos per cycle – far more than the couple intends to carry to term. The practitioners often also implant more embryos in the woman's uterus than desired, and may selectively abort some of them if multiple are successfully implanted in her womb.

A recent study estimated that for every human embryo created through IVF and carried to term, nine are left behind. The remaining human embryos are usually either destroyed or left to languish in freezers, sometimes for decades, with no clear laws or regulations on what to do with them. Based on estimates derived from CDC figures, at least 1.5 million human embryos created through IVF are destroyed every year.

The IVF industry currently operates in a wild west, with little to no regulation or restraint on its activities. It is already legal in Nevada. The bill would allow IVF practitioners to operate with complete impunity and hinder the state's ability to enact health and safety regulations to protect women undergoing what is already a physically and mentally taxing process.

Even those who are untroubled by the bioethical hazards cannot deny that IVF mandates present tremendous fiscal challenges to state governments. SB 217 is an unfunded mandate. According to the fiscal note prepared for the bill, the cost to the state would be in the tens of millions per year, with expenses sure to increase over time. Other states have seen similar cost increases to both the government and individuals and families through higher premiums.

Nevada could address infertility in far less expensive and fraught ways by fostering restorative reproductive medicine to address the root causes of infertility; promoting education on fertility awareness-based methods; and reducing costs and eliminating legal barriers to adoption.

We appreciate your previous actions to veto unreasonable and often extreme measures from the legislature. Based on your high approval ratings, Nevadans clearly value you as a check and balance on the excesses of the Democrats. We urge you to veto SB 217 as a bioethical and fiscally untenable measure.

Sincerely,

Melissa Clement  
Executive Director, Nevada Right to Life

Most Rev. Daniel H. Mueggenborg  
Bishop of Reno

Josh Mercer  
Vice President, CatholicVote

Tony Perkins  
President, Family Research Council

Audrea Decker  
Executive Director, Pro-Family Legislative Network

Kate Szafran Rice  
President, Nevada Right to Life Foundation

Lynn Chapman  
Vice President, Nevada Families for Freedom

Kristen Day  
Executive Director, Democrats for Life

Karen England  
President, Capitol Resource Institute

Janine Hansen  
State President, Independent American Party

Alex Slack  
Director, Remnant Impact

Yadusha Jones  
Chair, Moms for Liberty

Eva Sara Landau  
Director, Moms for America

Erica Neely  
Director, Hispanic Alianza

Cristiane Mersch  
State Director, Bienvenidos Nevada

Julie Hereford  
Director, Nevada Can

Darlene Álvares  
Director, Sacred Heart Association

Grace Trujillo  
Director, Conservative Nurses

Jesus Marquez  
Director, American Christian Caucus

Dr César Minera  
Pastor, Ministerio Palabra de Vida

Yolanda Amaya  
Pastor, A.M.E.N. - Asociación de Ministros Evangélicos de Nevada

Frank McElfish  
Director, Northern Nevada United

Joey Bock  
Pastor, Faith Alive Christian Center