



MASSACHUSETTS FAMILY INSTITUTE

Dedicated to Strengthening the Family

MFI BRIEF

# WHY WE OPPOSE HB4672/SB947

## “AN ACT TO ENSURE LEGAL PARENTAGE EQUALITY”

These bills would prioritize the desires of adults over the needs of children in the Commonwealth. They would make it easier for people to purchase children through surrogacy arrangements and sperm or egg donorship. In doing so, they would harm both children and parents.

### The Bills Would:

#### Deprive Children of Their Right to Know Their Biological Mother and/or Father

When a child is conceived through surrogacy or sperm or egg donorship, they are almost always separated from one or more of the biological parents who helped to create them. A growing body of social science and psychological research suggests that when children grow up apart from their biological parents, they suffer mentally and emotionally, are more likely to be abused, and have worse life outcomes. While adoption helps to mend the already broken situation of being separated from one’s biological parents, surrogacy and sperm and egg donorship *intentionally* create that brokenness. The child bears the consequences.

#### Turn Children into a Commodity that Can Be Bought and Sold

Surrogacy and sperm and egg donorship also convert children into a product for sale and decrease safeguards for children. These bills would enable people who are not equipped to be parents to more

easily “buy” children for themselves, without the background checks, references, home studies, and other safeguards required in the legal adoption process. While in any other circumstance, we would call this child trafficking, through genetic surrogacy agreements, it becomes a perfectly legal way to obtain children.

#### Hurt Mothers and Fathers

Surrogacy and sperm and egg donorship not only harm children, but can also harm the adults who sell their genetic material or rent their wombs to create those children. Many parents who have participated in surrogacy or sperm or egg donation report that they regret giving up the opportunity to know and raise their own children. Surrogacy in particular invites a whole host of moral and legal problems that negatively affect surrogate mothers as well as the children they conceive and carry. For instance, wealthy buyers have been known to take advantage of impoverished mothers who may feel pressured to rent their wombs out to make ends meet. By making surrogacy and sperm and egg donation easier to do in Massachusetts, these bills would harm parents, too.

These are just a few of the reasons we oppose these bills. Contact your legislator and ask them to reject HB4672/SB947, “An act to ensure legal parentage equality.”

Visit [mafamilly.org/takeaction](http://mafamilly.org/takeaction) to learn how to oppose this bill.

P.O. Box 336 | Wakefield, MA 01880 | 781.569.0400 | [mafamilly.org](http://mafamilly.org)