

THE TORCH

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

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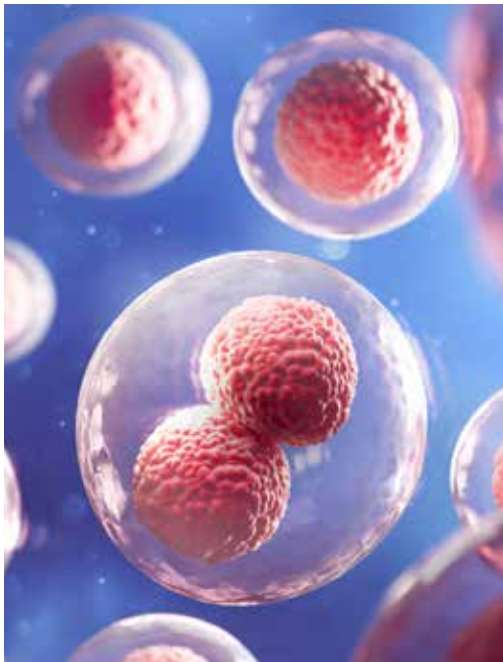
Sanctity of Life Month: Special Edition

The following articles appeared in the July 2015 Eagle Forum Report.

Saved from Limbo by Melissa Moschella, PhD.

One of the most serious ethical concerns with in vitro fertilization is that for every child born with the help of IVF, there are typically many other children — the “spare” embryos produced by the IVF process — who are kept in cryostorage and consigned to an uncertain fate. Most of these human beings will remain frozen indefinitely until their parents eventually stop paying the storage fees and they die. Although the lack of reporting requirements makes it difficult to get accurate numbers, experts estimate that there are between five to ten million frozen embryonic children in the United States alone.

Biologically, there is no doubt that these are genuine human beings at an early stage of life. All that they need to continue their lives and grow to maturity is an adequate environment that provides them with oxygen, nutrition, and protection, and at this stage of life, the only environment that can provide them with those basic needs is a woman’s womb.



Why Embryo Adoption?

For all who recognize the profound, equal, and intrinsic dignity of every human being, the fate of these tiniest and most vulnerable of human lives is a tragedy that calls for a humane and compassionate response. That response is embryo adoption. When the parents of frozen embryos are unable or don’t want to gestate and raise them, we should treat these embryonic orphans just like other orphaned children and facilitate their adoption into a loving family. The embryos’ parents probably followed the standard IVF protocols and are not usually given the option to limit the number of embryos that they attempt to produce. *Continued Page 2 >*

IN THIS ISSUE

Saved from Limbo ... 1-2

Better Living ... 3

Eagle Eye on News ... 4

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We should also enact sensible regulations that prevent IVF clinics from routinely creating “spare” embryos in the first place, as Germany and Italy have done. These countries have also passed regulations that make it illegal to create embryos to sell them to prospective parents — a practice that unfortunately already occurs in the U.S.

The California Conceptions Donor Embryo Program buys eggs and sperm from “donors” and then uses them to make embryos for prospective parents, who pay a handsome fee for this service. Although a sponsored link to this program is the first thing that appears in response to a Google search for “embryo adoption agencies,” this program is the antithesis of embryo adoption. The purpose of embryo adoption is to welcome existing embryos into a loving family that will gestate and raise them.

How Does Embryo Adoption Work?

The only fully licensed embryo adoption agency is Nightlight Christian Adoptions, which offers “Building Families Together,” a Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program.

Other agencies, such as the National Embryo Donation Center and Embryos Alive, try to mimic adoption best practices, but are not licensed adoption agencies. Other embryo donation programs are run by some fertility clinics, which typically involve anonymous embryo donation and do not follow the best practices of adoption.

Like other adoption agencies, Snowflakes requires that prospective adoptive parents complete a home study with a licensed adoption agency and facilitates “matching” between the embryos’ current legal parents and the prospective adoptive parents.

Parents who want to place their embryos for adoption would contact Snowflakes (or another agency) and submit a family profile. Prospective adoptive parents likewise prepare a family profile and also indicate to Snowflakes the number of embryos they would like to adopt. Snowflakes tries to keep siblings together, asking prospective adoptive parents to adopt all of the remaining embryos from a particular set of parents.

Once a match has been agreed upon by both parties, an adoption contract is signed, officially transferring ownership of the embryos to the adoptive parents. Unlike the adoption of already born children, the embryos are legally treated as property rather than as persons. For this reason, the embryo adoption contract is a property transfer contract. Finally, the embryos are shipped to a participating fertility clinic, where the embryos will be transferred one or two at a time into the uterus of the adoptive mother in the hopes of achieving a successful pregnancy.

Although clinics do their best to ensure that the conditions in the adoptive mother’s uterus are favorable, the

embryos do not always implant for various reasons. The implantation rates following the transfer of previously frozen adopted embryos are similar to implantation rates in IVF: Roughly one-third of embryo transfers result in implantation, and roughly one-fourth result in live birth. The process does, therefore, involve some risk both to the child and to the adoptive mother, especially if miscarriage occurs after implantation. The risks are outweighed by the prospective benefits, given that the alternative is indefinite cryostorage and death.

Embryo adoption allows the adoptive mother to gestate and breastfeed her adoptive child and thus begin the bonding process even earlier than in traditional postnatal adoption, as well as enabling the adoptive parents to ensure that the child is well cared for during pregnancy (something that is usually far from guaranteed in infant adoption) and saving the child from having to suffer the “primal wound” of separation from the birth mother.

The only humane and compassionate way to deal with these millions of children whose lives are currently in limbo is to be adopted by loving parents willing to gestate and raise them.

What Legislation is Needed?

Apart from passing sensible IVF regulations to prevent additional human beings from being created only to be consigned to indefinite cryostorage, legislators can help the millions of embryonic human beings who already exist by facilitating embryo adoption.

First, just as the government facilitates postnatal adoption through tax credits for adoption-related expenses, the same should be done for embryo adoption. Currently, couples who pursue embryo adoption do not qualify for adoption tax credits, making the costs of embryo adoption prohibitive for some people. Changing the legal definition of adoption to include embryo adoption or changing the tax rules to allow embryo adoption to count for the adoption tax credit is one important step that legislators should take.

Second, legislators should place legal limits on the number of years that parents can keep embryos in cryostorage without any attempt to gestate them. After that time limit has passed, the embryos should be declared abandoned and made available for adoption.

Although such measures will not resolve the problem posed by these millions of frozen embryos, they are crucial steps toward building a society in which even the smallest and most vulnerable of our fellow human beings are treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve. ♡

Melissa Moschella, PhD, is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame’s McGrath Institute for Church Life.



Better Living Through Reproduction

by Tabitha Walter

Women's fertility is in trouble. From 2014-2020, the Centers for Disease Control reported a 2% decrease annually in the fertility rate among American women. Despite a 1% increase in 2020 (likely due to the COVID-19 lockdowns), the fertility rate plunged again in 2022 by 3%. The factors leading to this change include the postponement of marriage and children, economic instability, and poor health.

Another pervasive problem is infertility. Infertility affects one-in-six women around the world. Then, when a woman conceives, up to 20% of pregnancies result in miscarriage. Various means of Artificial Reproductive Technology (ART), such as in vitro fertilization (IVF), have been sought to achieve pregnancy when all else fails. IVF is costly, painful, and inadequate. While ART can produce an embryo outside of the uterus, it cannot guarantee a successful implantation or live birth. ART often leads to unsuccessful IVF cycles and repeated heartbreak for couples. A more holistic method called Restorative Reproductive Medicine may be the answer.

The International Institute for Restorative Reproductive Medicine defines RRM as "a branch of reproductive medicine that focuses on diagnosing and treating reproductive issues by restoring and supporting the natural functions of the reproductive system." In the publication, *Treating Infertility, Ethics and Public Policy* Center's Natalie Dodson describes the difference between ART and RRM as "the former seeks to circumvent the infertility, and the latter seeks to treat the underlying causes of infertility."

RRM recognizes that every function in our body is intertwined with our overall well-being. The ability to ovulate or have a menstrual cycle within appropriate age ranges is a sign of health. We cannot shut down one system and not expect natural repercussions later. Yet, conventional medical practices have only offered birth control to treat symptoms or IVF after failing to achieve pregnancy.

RRM is truly an act of individual sovereignty. The Left's mantra of "my body, my choice" actually applies here. The

strategies of RRM bring the patient in as an equal participant in treatment. On a case-by-case basis, a RRM doctor may prescribe changes in diet, certain medicines or supplements, exercise, stress reliefs, or surgeries. It is the patient's responsibility to put the agreed-upon plan into action. Through charting various biomarkers, a patient can see how these actions are affecting her body from day-to-day and understand how to best advocate for herself when receiving treatment. This allows her to have informed decisions rather than a five-minute consultation only to receive a one-size-fits-all solution. These decisions can lead to healthy lifestyle choices that will be beneficial beyond pregnancy.

For far too long, medical professionals have normalized painful symptoms that indicate problems within the female reproductive system. The most prescribed treatment for abnormal menstrual cycles or associated pain are birth control methods such as pills or intrauterine devices. These have only provided a band aid allowing bigger problems to fester leading to infertility. We can't completely blame the doctors though; this is what they have been taught.

RRM is not part of the core curriculum of most medical programs. In order to receive training, medical professionals have to take specialized courses post-graduation. ART, however, is often taught throughout medical school. If more medical professionals are equipped with how to address the root problems of infertility, more women can be treated at the local level.

Increasing the number of RRM trained physicians would also save costs for patients while having better outcomes. Studies have shown that RRM is twenty times less expensive than IVF. A single round of IVF can cost between \$12,000-\$30,000 and most women need multiple rounds to try to achieve pregnancy, whereas RRM, depending on the procedures, could simply come at the cost of medications.

IVF has a success rate of live births of roughly 23%. This number does not take into consideration all the extra embryos created and destroyed. Comparatively, RRM has a success rate up to 40% of live births, while also addressing long-term problems that may increase chances of future pregnancies or better health overall.

Studies have also shown that RRM significantly reduces preterm births. The average preterm birth rate in the United States is 10.4%. IVF increases this likelihood averaging 19.7% early deliveries. Incredibly, RRM falls below both averages with a 5.7% rate. Not only does RRM increase the health of the mother, but of the baby as well.

Treating infertility should not be a political issue, since infertility affects so many women and most women want to have children. We encourage Congressional and regulatory action to conduct studies into these methods. Women need better reproductive health options. ♡

Tabitha Walter serves as Eagle Forum's Executive Director.

Gambling Industry Continues the Fight in Texas Campaigns - New campaign finance reports released ahead of the March primaries reveal the gambling lobby is still fighting for candidates—despite the industry taking major losses last year. Texas Sands PAC supported 17 Republican candidates and nine Democrat candidates according to its most recent campaign finance report. The PAC is connected to Las Vegas Sands, which has not operated a casino in the U.S. since 2021, and derives more than half of its profits from Sands China. Las Vegas Sands also funds #ProjectRedTx, which supported nearly 90 candidates for local government positions. To read the full list of candidates receiving support from Texas Sands visit texasscorecard.com
SOURCE: Paige Feild, TexasScorecard.com, January 19, 2026.

Texas Ag Commissioner Sounds Alarm: Unsolicited ‘Mystery Seeds’ Hits Texas - Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is warning Texans of a sharp spike in unsolicited packages delivering unidentified seeds. As of January 15, 2026, TDA has already collected 126 packets this year alone, with reports surging dramatically since the agency’s January 5 alert. “These packages are pouring in faster and further than ever before,” Commissioner Miller said. “They may look innocent, but the danger is real. One invasive species, pest, or pathogen could devastate Texas farms, ranches, natural resources, and food supply. We cannot gamble with Texas agriculture.” Since the resurgence of reports began in early 2025, TDA has coordinated seed package pickups in dozens of Texas counties and is collaborating with state and federal partners to investigate origins, test contents, and ensure safe disposal. If you receive unsolicited seeds: (1) Do NOT open or plant the contents; (2) Keep the packet sealed in its original packaging, (3) Contact TDA immediately at 1-800-TELL-TDA for safe handling and collection instructions. SOURCE: texasagriculture.gov/news-events (January 2026).

Consumer Alert: TX-AG Paxton Warns Texans About CCP-Aligned Smart TVs Spying on Them - Texas AG Ken Paxton has sued five major TV companies (Sony, Samsung, LG, Hisense, and TCL Technology Group), some with ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), for spying on Texans by using Automated Content Recognition (ACR) technology. “All across Texas, there are smart TVs acting as an uninvited, invisible digital invaders. It’s vital that all Texans know that your TV may be monitoring and recording everything that happens on your screen,” Paxton said. Paxton has already secured a TRO against Hisense that stops the company from collecting, using, selling, sharing, disclosing, or transferring the data. Paxton’s office has issued a consumer alert both warning Texans about the dangers of smart TVs spying on them, as well as providing general guidance as to how to turn off the invasive technology. The AG office provides general guidance on its website for how to turn-off certain data collection by some of the TV companies currently being sued. Please visit the Texas Attorney General’s website to read the full Consumer Alert.
SOURCE: texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/press-releases (December 2025).

GREAT AMERICAN QUOTE

“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.”

Thomas Jefferson

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

Psalm 139:13-14

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Dear Texas Eagles,

After a short but relaxing Christmas Eve to New Year's Day break, we have hit the ground running in 2026. JoAnn Fleming, the fearless leader of Grassroots America - We the People, and I started the critical task of vetting Texas House, Senate, Congressional, and SBOE candidates in early October. These hour-long interviews over Zoom require a lot of personal preparation and post-interview debriefings with other TEF leaders or national Eagle Forum leaders. So many candidates applied to get vetted, in fact, that we are still working on our own organization's endorsement list.

Vetting is something we take very seriously, and there are several reasons why we might choose not to endorse in a given race. There may be only slight differences between candidates, or perhaps we aren't comfortable enough to grant a candidate an Eagle Forum endorsement. Some candidates aren't ready or informed enough to assume an elected position, while others don't have a functioning campaign, volunteers, or resources. Vetting allows us an opportunity to build relationships with candidates and share more about Texas Eagle Forum. We are looking for hard working, informed candidates who have ideas and solutions but are also open to learning more about our key issues. Please watch our website for endorsement updates and feel free to share our endorsements with your like-minded friends. I have vetted several inspiring deep thinkers, and I pray they win their primary and general elections.

Another important task we are working on as primary season approaches is gathering resolutions to help update our platform and inform our legislative priorities. We are happy to accept your submissions at TEF@TexasEagleForum.com. Submissions will be posted on our website, and I hope many will be presented by those who will attend their precinct/senatorial/county conventions. I have personally witnessed the impact this effort makes, so we look forward to hearing from you on important issues.

This week I was able to visit the new Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) headquarters that recently opened north of Dallas. It was a refreshing reminder of the amazing people who fight to protect our God-given right to life, liberty, free speech and the blessing of living in America. ADF makes a huge difference in the lives of those they defend. But more than that, their victories are important to all Americans, including the unborn.

In this month's issue of *The Torch*, we celebrate the Sanctity of Life. When a people lose respect for life, society is likely at its end. Our national EF is working hard in D.C. to push back on taxpayer-funded IVF. While IVF does allow some to have a child they might not have otherwise conceived, it is also estimated to have created over one million unborn embryos, many of which are unwanted and are often abandoned. There are better ways to help couples achieve parenthood, and we are thankful that our national Eagle Forum is engaging with emerging experts who care deeply about the ethical implications of this reproductive technology and our role in protecting all unborn babies, regardless of how they came to life.

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