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August 20, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

Thank you for the work you have done to expose the “rent-a-womb” industry enabled by lax international surrogacy laws, particularly through your recent executive order, *Continuing to Protect the Meaning and Value of American Citizenship*. As you correctly pointed out, foreign nationals, including some from hostile countries with abysmal human rights records, can exploit our laws to obtain U.S. citizenship for their children—and perhaps eventually for themselves.

In many cases, these arrangements are planned and coordinated by foreign nationals before they ever set foot in the United States, with U.S. surrogacy agencies facilitating the process. The 2024 case of Florida surrogate Kyla Simpson illustrates the risks. Simpson carried premature triplets for a Chinese man, with one of the babies later dying. When the intended father failed to obtain a U.S. visa and necessary travel documents, the children remained in Simpson’s care for months. He eventually sent handlers to collect them, causing Simpson to fear they could be victims of human trafficking or other criminal activity. He also gave the children different last names, raising questions about whether he was acting on behalf of others. Simpson and the intended father are now reportedly engaged in a custody dispute over the surviving children. This case, along with the broader challenges posed by cultural differences, language barriers, and conflicting state laws, underscores the need for federal action.

Your decision to prohibit international surrogacy is an important step, but more can and should be done to deter bad actors by eliminating the incentives that facilitate this practice. The Immigration and Nationality Act gives you broad authority to restrict the entry of classes of foreign nationals whose admission you determine would be “detrimental to the interests of the United States.” Few things could be more detrimental than allowing foreign nationals to exploit our laws while treating children as commodities.

In coordination with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, you could deny visas to individuals who attempt or have participated in international surrogacy arrangements involving U.S. clinics and surrogates, including plans to commission or collect a resulting child. Such individuals could also be made permanently ineligible for entry under any visa category, asylum, refugee status, temporary protected status, lottery- or family-based immigration, or petitions for lawful permanent residency or U.S. citizenship, including through a future marriage to an American citizen.

I also encourage you and your administration to hold fertility organizations and surrogacy agencies accountable for facilitating this practice, particularly those that openly promote international surrogacy or advise foreign nationals on exploiting loopholes in U.S. citizenship and immigration law. For example, following your 2025 executive order on birthright citizenship, Surrogate First reportedly told prospective clients that the certainty of U.S. citizenship at birth is a significant factor in choosing the United States for surrogacy. Creative Family Connections likewise advertised a two-step birth certificate process designed to ensure that children of American surrogates and foreign parents receive U.S. citizenship.

Several agencies, particularly in California, actively market these services to Asian clients. Some operate Mandarin-language websites with content distinct from their English pages; Global Fertility, Mlang Surrogacy, and Sunshine Surrogacy have listed offices in China, while Angels Creation Reproductive Center in Irvine markets through a Japanese-language partner. Lawmakers have also identified more than 107 Chinese-owned surrogacy agencies in Southern California that reportedly cater almost exclusively to wealthy Chinese clients, with some linked to Chinese state-owned entities. Yet these agencies have remained in good standing with major U.S. fertility organizations, including ASRM, SART, RESOLVE, and SEEDS.

The American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and other major fertility organizations have thus far failed to establish adequate standards or oversight to address these risks, including cases like Simpson's. ASRM also maintains a Chinese Special Interest Group whose stated purpose is to facilitate information exchange among physicians and scientists of Chinese origin within and outside China. This relationship warrants scrutiny, particularly given the broader national security and immigration implications of international commercial surrogacy.

This is an opportunity not only to address the conduct of foreign nationals but also to examine the role of U.S. fertility organizations and surrogacy agencies in facilitating an international commercial surrogacy market that can function as a form of birth tourism.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. I welcome the opportunity to work with you to advance our shared goals of protecting children, promoting national security, and ensuring that the privilege of American citizenship is not exploited by foreign nationals who can currently obtain a child before ever setting foot on U.S. soil.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress