



Impacting Reproductive
Care Worldwide

**Statement for the Record
United States House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Subcommittee on Health
“Legislative Hearing”**

June 22, 2022

**Statement by
American Society for Reproductive Medicine**

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) appreciates the opportunity to share our comments in response to the committee’s legislative hearing on the Veterans Infertility Treatment Act (H.R.1957) and the Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act (H.R.345).

For nearly a century, ASRM has been the global leader in multidisciplinary reproductive medicine research, ethical practice, and education. ASRM’s approximately 8,000 distinguished members, which include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, mental health professionals and others, represent more than 100 countries and impact and inform all aspects of reproductive care and science worldwide. In our role, our focus is on serving both our members, our patients, and the children born as a result of assisted reproductive technologies.

The Veterans Infertility Treatment Act (H.R.1957). Not only do military personnel experience the same rates of infertility as the general population, but they also face additional obstacles due to service-related toxic exposures and other physical and emotional trauma that may impact fertility. For many, the ability to become a parent hinges on affordable access to in vitro fertilization (IVF). The Veterans Infertility Treatment Act would make infertility care, including IVF, a covered benefit of VA healthcare for veterans struggling with infertility, regardless of marital status, service-connected injury, or need for donated genetic material. This bill would help provide coverage for family building that all veterans deserve and remove the current coverage barriers in the VA healthcare system that needlessly shuts out veterans who want to become a parent. We strongly urge Congress to pass this much-needed legislation that brings the VA healthcare system into the 21st century for family building.

The Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act (H.R. 345). Expanding access to comprehensive reproductive counseling for veterans is more important now than ever. Abortion is part of reproductive health care and veterans are long overdue to have access to counseling for all reproductive health care services. The Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act would mark an important step in the right direction by enabling medical professionals to provide information about abortion services to veterans— giving patients an opportunity to make the most informed decision possible regarding their own reproductive health. We encourage Congress to pass this legislation and expand abortion counseling services to veterans.



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In conclusion, ASRM strongly encourages the passage of the Veterans Infertility Treatment Act and the Reproductive Health Information for Veterans Act. Thank you for your consideration of these important bills and we look forward to working with your committee on these and other proposals that support veterans. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Bogdan, Director of Government Affairs, at sbogdan@asrm.org or 401-316-5144.