

**PRESS RELEASE**

**August 8, 2012  
Trenton, New Jersey**

**FROM: National Leadership Coalition Against Exploitation of Women by Use of Gestational Surrogacy Agreements.**

**~ New Jersey ~**

**SUBJECT: Governor Christopher Christie's Veto of Gestational Surrogacy Enabling Statute, S 1599 – Drafted by Surrogacy Broker.**

**CONTACT: Harold J. Cassidy: 732-747-3999**

**Today, Governor Christie vetoed S 1599, the Gestational Surrogacy Enabling Statute. We admire his statesmanship and thank him for his strong leadership in this critical matter.**

**Governor Christi's action has national significance on one of the most important issues facing the people of our nation.**

**Going forward, we shall be urging the legislature to pass legislation, such as S 2032, which adopts the clear recommendations of the New Jersey Bioethics Commission, which urged adoption of legislation which prohibits gestational carrier contracts, reaffirms their unenforceability in our courts, creates deterrence of such arrangements by criminal penalties for commercial brokers and creates special rules for the award of custody where deterrence fails.**

**The carefully drafted 171 page report issued by the Bioethics Commission was ignored by the surrogacy broker who drafted S 1599.**

**We believe it is not an overstatement to observe that if gestational surrogacy enabling laws were to be widely adopted, it would irreparably change human civilization.**

**In order to embrace any form of surrogacy, our culture would have to adopt two radical assumptions as morally acceptable:**

- 1. That we should go back to a time when women's role in society is viewed as one where they bear children for men and have no right to the custody of the children they bear; and**
- 2. Mothers provide nothing of particular value in the lives of the children to whom they give birth.**

**The legislation recommended by the New Jersey Bioethics Commission, S2032, should be adopted and signed into law to protect women and children against exploitation and commodification.**

**MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP COALITION**

**Phyllis Chesler, Ph.D**

Emerita Professor of Psychology

Author of fourteen feminist books, including “Sacred Bond,” her acclaimed work on surrogacy, and other important works on the role of women as mothers

**Kathleen Sloan**

National Organization for Women (NOW) Board of Directors

NOW’s representative at the United Nations

**Harold J. Cassidy, JD**

Former member of New Jersey Bioethics Commission

Chief Counsel for the mother in the two most important surrogacy cases, *Baby M* case and *AGR v. SH and DRH*

**Len Deo**

President

New Jersey Family Policy Council

**Phyllis Schlafly**

President and Founder

Eagle Forum

**Jennifer Lahl**

President and Founder

The Center for Bioethics and Culture

**Angelia G. Robinson**

Gestational Surrogacy mother of twin girls born in 2006, who successfully fought in NJ Courts to preserve her relationship with her daughters she gave birth to (over four years in court).

**Janice Shaw Crouse**

Senior Fellow  
Beverly La Haye Institute  
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**Robert P. George, MTS, Ph.D., JD**

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**Marie Tasy**

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New Jersey Right to Life

**Greg Quinlan**

Director  
New Jersey Family First

**Heather Heck**

Gestational Surrogate Mother who has given birth as a result of multiple gestational surrogacy arrangements

**Richard F. Collier, Jr., JD**

President  
Legal Center for the Defense of Life

**Christopher Bell**

President  
Good Counsel, Inc.  
Homes for mothers and babies since 1985

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Executive Director  
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