



January 23, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor, State of New York  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader, New York State Senate  
New York State Capitol Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker, New York Assembly  
New York State Capitol Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie:

As women who have chosen to become gestational surrogates, we want to thank you for your consideration of the Child-Parent Security Act, common-sense legislation included in Governor Cuomo's budget proposal that is rooted in the shared experience of surrogates over the past 30 years. Our support for this legislation comes from our firsthand experience in enabling families in New York and elsewhere to have children of their own. There are few things as rewarding as seeing a parent hold a newborn baby for the first time and knowing that you brought that life into the world for them.

We have come to this issue from different backgrounds and perspectives, but we share the universal belief that everyone who dreams of having a family should be able to do so. Advances in medicine over the past three decades have made biological parenthood possible for so many who would never have been able to have children before – but science can only take us so far. For many hopeful parents, surrogacy is their only option.

To understand how we view our role as gestational surrogates (this means that we have no genetic relationship with the child), it's helpful to understand how we chose this path. All of us are lucky to have families of our own. We know the incomparable joy that comes from raising children, and also know— from our experiences with intended parents—the deep pain that comes when you are told that parenthood isn't possible for you.

The decision to serve as a surrogate is not one that any of us entered into lightly. We each researched the science and the legal guidelines, learned about the experiences of other surrogates, and thought deeply about the commitment and process involved. For us, it came down to giving the gift of life to people who want nothing more than to raise children of their own.

Not everyone understands the way surrogacy works today in the United States. For some, their notions of surrogacy are rooted in outdated practices, beliefs that were abandoned decades ago, or practices they have heard about that may take place in developing countries. Some even believe that gestational surrogacy is a potential evil to be foisted upon unaware or vulnerable women.

We want to dispel those myths. It's important that people know that the primary motivation for each of us, and for all the surrogates we've come into contact with, is helping a family, not financial reward. Surrogacy today is a true partnership between the woman acting as surrogate, the intended parent(s), doctors and nurses, and the matching agency. We all get to know one another, see if we're a good match, and then work together through this process of bringing a baby into the world.

Most of us maintain close relationships with the families that we worked with, exchanging holiday and birthday cards and sharing (at least through photographs) milestones with one another.

The Child-Parent Security Act includes comprehensive protections for women acting as surrogates, which, if passed, would establish the strongest protections for surrogates in the nation. The bill would enshrine into law a Surrogate's Bill of Rights, protecting our right to make decisions regarding our health; ensuring that we have our own legal representation; and guaranteeing access to comprehensive health insurance, counseling, and life insurance.

It's incomprehensible to us that a woman who wants to serve as a gestational surrogate and help a family bring a baby into the world, and who meets the rigorous screening process of surrogacy matching agencies to ensure suitability, would be prevented by state law from being able to do so. Whose interest is that serving? Certainly not that of prospective surrogates, nor of intended parents.

We understand better than anyone what it takes to serve as a surrogate – and what it means to families who rely on surrogacy to have children. On behalf of these families, we urge you to end New York's ban and replace it with what would be the most supportive law in the country for both women acting as surrogates and intended parents.

Sincerely,

Tanesha McCoy-Washington	Atlanta, GA
Lisa Wippler	Cedartown, GA
Victoria Ashton	San Jose, CA
Kelly Enders-Tharp	Lincoln, CA
Emily Westerfield	Celina, OH
Beth Leshinsky	Richlands, NC
Rachael Smith	Palm Coast, FL
Tyler Pierce	Cape Coral, FL
Ashley Masten	Federalsburg MD
Britnee Sandoval	Garland, UT
Janet L. Barber	Plover, WI
Portia Zwicker	Niskayuna, NY
Kimberley Humble	Chico, CA
Elizabeth king	Rochester, NY
Sharon Chomik	Rochester, NY
Susan McIntyre	Leicester, MA

Amanda Soucy	Nashua, NH
Carrie Ramoz	Bend, OR
Amy Kaplan	Irvine, CA
Carey Flamer-Powell	Beaverton, OR
Karen Hoffenkamp	Murrieta, CA
Shawna Johnson	Danville, CA
Nalda Tickal	Bridgeport, CT
Jennifer Dean	Wichita, KS
Jessica Taylor	Simi Valley, CA
LaTeisha Wiebers	Tea, SD
Candice Parker	Westminster CA
Amanda Brown	Valencia, CA
Melissa Garcia	Tucson, AZ
Julia J. Tate-Keith	Murfreesboro, TN
Nichole Klingeman	La Crosse, WI
Elizabeth McMiche	Chattanooga, TN
Lisa Stark Hughes	Placerville, CA
Ashley Chilton	Columbus, OH
Nicole Renzetti	Oswego, IL
Kayla Reveal	Champaign, IL
Karina Hofacker	Cedar Key, FL
Eloise Drane	Atlanta, GA
Kelly Varner	Martinez, GA
Melissa Driggers	Callahan, FL
Goldie Lane	Lawrenceville, GA
Valerie McMorris	New York, NY
Casey Gillingham	High Springs, FL
Andrea Muehlhaus	Fresno, CA
Tami Pagan	Blythewood, SC
Brianna Layton	Bend, OR
Christina Webber	Scottsdale, PA
Caitlin OBrien	Owatonna MN
Lizzette Ortega	Kansas City, KS
Kathryn Felt	Lincoln, CA

Sandra Coronel	Tampa, FL
Brenda Badger	Baltimore, MD
Mesha Pomeroy	Yukon, OK
Tiffany Handyside	DeLand, FL
Nicole Barwise	Canton, OH
Jennifer Pike	Wesley Chapel, FL
Stephanie Gimeno	Churchville, PA
Katrina McLane	Saint Louis, MO
Tawnie Montague	Saint Marys, OH
Marlena Beck	Fargo, ND
Jaclyn Montgomery	Whitefish, MT
Kristen Cody	Deland, FL
Kelly Gracey	Lititz, PA
Emmie Hardman	South Weber, UT
Keri lemieux	Oklahoma City, OK
Laura dicicco	Audubon, PA
Jessica Pitts	Torrington, CT
Aja Goff	Sioux Falls, SD
Diana Merrill	Murfreesboro TN
Whitney Gaetz	Saint Cloud, MN
Robyn Minks	Griffith, IN
Jennifer Hunter	Kansas City, MO
Heather Gordon	North Port, FL
Hollie Tanner	Feasterville, PA
Kayla Boyer	Concord, NH
Erin Bloomfield	Durango, CO
Kimberly Birdsall	Londonderry, NH
Lyndsey Delorto	Auburn, MA
Lindsay Lewis	Wichita, KS
Sabrina M. Sculley	Tobyhanna, PA
Poonam Rani	Greensboro, NC
Gabriell Dennis	Clark, NJ
Emily Rich	Oakland, CA
Alicia McKinley	Fremont, OH

Jessica Konopski-Soto	East Brunswick, NJ
Kelley Perry	Lakeville, MN
Sarah Harris	Olathe, KS
Sharon Lamothe	Sammamish, WA
Symone Sheets	Mosinee, WI
Katie Venezuela	Melissa, TX
Colleen	Grand Forks, ND
Rachel Johnson	Hesperia, CA
Dominique Kuhlow	Neenah, WI
Traci Fugitt	Mabank, TX
Casey Griffiths	Stafford, KS
Bailey Martin	Guthrie, OK
Sabrina James	Evansville, IN
Kimberly Grusman	Las Vegas, NV
Marysol Welch	Little Rock, CA
Kayla Langenheim	Dover, NH
Marki Kwiecinski	Mishawaka, IN
Christina Kearns	Amarillo, TX
Kayla Tremblay	Orlando, FL
Melinda Wright	Port Richey, FL
Lindsey Fischer	White Bear Lake, MN
Kimberlie Goodnough	Mentone, CA
Konni Wallace	Lenoir City, TN
Ellie Vertrees	Issaquah, WA
Kjersty Brady	Utah
Brooke Daws	Marion, IA
Dana Johnson	Wichita, KS
Kaylee Cassidy	Colorado Springs, CO
Sarah Summers	Champaign, IL
Marcella Marcella	San Diego, CA
Marrisa Ciappa	Roseville, CA
Melissa Soto	Tampa, FL
Caroline Hare	Forney, TX
Cynthia Delgado	Riverside, CA

Amanda Warren	Kalispell, MT
Courtney Whitworth	Huntsville, AL
Michelle Rodriguez	Phoenix AZ
Amber Lightsey	Hartwell, GA
Keyana Rose Higgens	Attleboro, MA
Karin Frey	Hopatcong, NJ
Ashley Smail	Colchester, VT
Portia Zwicker	Niskayuna, NY
Ericka Weik	Hinesburg, VT
Sabrina Gayle	Morrisville, VT
Ashley Martell	Saint Albans, VT
Kaitlyn Morris	Lafayette, IN
Gael Kline	Blandon, PA
Brandi Bradley	Gorham, ME
Sarah Shoemaker	Saranac Lake, NY
Erika Davis	Auburn, ME
Mackenzue McMillen	Rochester, NY
Mary Faichney	Chattanooga, TN
Kara Valera	Houston, TX
Brittney Johnson	Seminole, FL
Elizabeth Koller	Felton, PA
Halie Delgiudice	Rutland, VT
Samantha Foltz	York, PA
Jodi Rickenberg	Ohio
Maisah Rosario	Virginia Beach, VA
Sarahi v bueno	San Diego, CA
Karen Bijeaux	Virginia Beach, VA
Nicole Petty	Mesa, AZ
Justice Santos	Florence, OR
Tracy Marino	Syracuse, NY
Tierra Nelson	St. Cloud, MN
Ariadna navarro	New City, NY
Barette Best	Ruskin, FL
Rachel salazar	Brooklyn, NY

Christine Stevens	Spotsylvania VA
Sarah Matos	Mount Joy, PA
Anne Enderlin	Grimes, IA
Kaylynn Cramer	Denver, CO
Ashley Bodner	Bentleyville, PA
Jenna freeman	Marble Falls, TX
Heather Mudgett	Sumter, SC
Juliegha Edwards	Gulf Breeze, FL
Stephanie	Denver, CO
Sandi Craig	Green Bay, WI
Molly Corcoran	Milford, CT
Laura Robarge	New Bedford, MA
Kristen Watkins	Monclova, OH
Melissa Moreau	Moosup, CT
Melinda Lewis	Lisbon, CT
Aretha Cagno	Bristol, CT
Sarah Riggleman	Altoona, PA
Yaenid vega	Apopka, FL
Toni Glenn	Post Falls, ID
Amie Allen	Northfield, MA
Kimberly Lewis	Denver, CO
Jolene Ritchey	Cape Coral, FL
Christal Klein	Murrieta, CA
Brittany Richards	Lake Arrowhead, CA
Cherie fonseca	Pleasant Hill, OR
Amy Brooker	Albuquerque, NM
Candius Mogaka	Irving, TX
Kimberly Warner	Springfield, MO
Nicole L. Curschmann	Hardwick, VT
Stephani Pegg	Blaine, MN
Cortney Pokrop	East Petersburg, PA
Lacy Chenea	Middlesboro, KY
Kayleen Pieper	Wailuku, HI
Christine Chavez	Lakeside CA

Erica Lial	Denver, CO
Yvette Cervantes	Mission Viejo, CA
Mary Johnson	Brighton, CO
Amber Campanelli	Bozeman, MT
Chelsea Dorman	Weatherford, TX
Amanda Kinnard-Fuchsgruber	Denver, CO
Ariel Foos	Fowler, CO
Amber Malone	New Caney, TX
Callie Imegel	Fort Lupton CO
Brandy Tilford	Sullivan, MO
Erin M Goerg	Independence, WI
Kimberly Myers	Castle Rock, CO
Lea Walker	Denver, CO
Kristina Clowers	Denver, CO
Callie Kolkind	Princeton, MN
Megan Steinecke	Donahue, IA
Sarah Harris	Olathe, KS
Megin Scotton	Monson, MA
Chantel Pendleton	Draper, UT
Jennifer Lee	Mechanicsville, VA
Ashley E Husk	Burlington, VT
Ashleigh Hulse	Augusta, KS
Heather Manojlovic	Fort Wayne, IN
Nicole Cowles	Memphis, IN
Mandi Warren	Kalispell, MT
Holly Miller	Auburn, ME
Michelle Coughlin	Niceville, FL
Kristi Johnson	Smithton, IL
Ashley Hamer	Cedar Rapids, IA
Misti Skidmore	Justin, TX
Sarah Huizenga	North Ferrisburgh, VT
Miranda Berry	Bristol, VT
Courtney Johnson	Earlville, IL
Brandy Jenkins	Powhatan, VA



Carlene Fulton	San Tan Valley, AZ
Alisha Sisk	Moore, OK
Tyler Ellis	Colorado Springs, CO
Michaela Connor	Indianapolis, IN
Jeanna Manning	Vancouver, WA
Erika Young	Wesley Chapel, FL
Stephanie Torres	Wernersville, PA
Rebecca Petersen	Underwood, MN
Vanessa Seltzer	Forty Fort, PA
Alicia VanCamp	Salem, OR
Lacey Messenger	Fayetteville, PA
Myia Serrano	Kansas City, MO
Jamie Hicks	Redding, CA
Sarah Jones	Hebron, Kentucky
Lindsay simmons	Belmont, NC
Caitlyn Colly	Port Saint Lucie, Florida
Amanda Nance	Clarksville, TN
Danielle Perkins	Farmington, NH
Jannette Vee	California
Jaime Lueders	Webster Groves, MO
Liana Wolfe	Denver, CO
Misty Hardwick	Virginia Beach, VA
Lindsay Price	Manchester, MD
Catherine Maldonado	Monrovia, CA
Mesha Ricketts	Attica, IN
Nicole Christianson	Enumclaw, WA
Meg Daugherty	Overland Park, KS
Tricia King	Fort Wayne, IN
Shelby Hausman	Waukesha, WI
Nicky Smith	Bentonville, AR
Ivy Safcik	Dallas, TX
Jessica Pretz	San Antonio, TX
Dawn Wallace	Powder Springs, GA
Kelsey Hudson	Fort Wayne, IN

Kara Hewett

Manchester, NH

cc: Members of the New York State Senate  
Members of the New York State Assembly