Members of the New York State Legislature: June 14, 2019

We are writing as representatives of the young adult cancer community, asking you to help pass the Child-Parent Security Act (S2071/A1071), which would remove New York’s prohibition on compensated gestational surrogacy.

Over the past generation, cancer therapies have advanced substantially. Patients diagnosed in or before their reproductive years (0-45 years old) now face prospects of survival approaching 85%. But the very life-saving treatments that cancer patients need – chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery – can all cause reproductive damage. In the face of improved survival, long-term quality of life issues including the ability to build a family take on increasing value.

For many women, however, becoming pregnant after the completion of cancer treatment is impossible. Sometimes, the removal of organs like the uterus, ovaries, and/or cervix make pregnancy physically unattainable. Sometimes, patients must remain on long-term medications or hormones which medically preclude pregnancy. In addition, some patients suffer late effects from cancer treatments such as damage to their heart, lungs, or other vital organs that makes pregnancy dangerous. For these survivors, gestational surrogacy is an important family-building option, and for many, it provides the only means to have a child who is genetically related to them and/or to their spouse.

The status quo in New York, however, forces women to incur additional and unnecessary financial, emotional, and logistical burdens. S2017/A1071 would alleviate some of these burdens by allowing survivors to remain in New York throughout the gestational surrogacy and pregnancy process. This would save them the significant costs of frequent out-of-state travel, allow them to remain close to their own physicians, as well as more actively participate in the pregnancy of their own child. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Alliance for Fertility Preservation
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The Chick Mission
The Oncofertility Consortium
Patients Rising
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Teen Cancer America
Ulman Cancer Fund
Young Survival Coalition

www.ProtectParenthoodAfterCancer.org