



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

Post Office Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 30, 2014

The Honorable Alfred Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Re: House Bill No. 187 by Representative Joseph Lopinto

Dear Mr. Speer:

A year ago, I vetoed legislation which would have created commercial surrogacy contracts in Louisiana. In the time since, supporters of similar legislation have worked to address the bioethical concerns which led to that veto. While some progress has been made, and the legislation has been improved, I must nonetheless veto this legislation out of an abundance of concern regarding the ramifications of government-endorsed surrogacy contracts and how this legislation impacts the way we value human life.

All Louisianians are at liberty today to engage in informal agreements regarding surrogacy – this is simply a question of whether we ought to codify and regulate such agreements, and if so, what these regulations ought to entail.

My heart goes out to those who face the tragedies of miscarriage and infertility. The inability to conceive or bear children is a deep wound in our society, unnoticed by most, and suffered by too many. The desire to have a child is rooted in the love that created and sustains each of us — and when we seek the blessing of children, it is our best selves speaking to action. A state reflecting that goodness, and that love, will protect the dignity of human life — women and children at the foremost — and seek to open the doors to that fulfillment in family.

However, despite the good intentions and hard efforts of the author, this legislation still raises concerns for many in the pro-life community.

Thus, I cannot in good conscience, sign this bill. For these reasons and with deep conviction, I have vetoed House Bill No. 187 and hereby return it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Bobby Jindal
Governor

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~~ADOPTED~~ BY THE HOUSE *WJ*

JUN 01 2014

ALFRED W. SPEER
Clerk of the House