

New York Attorneys for Adoption and Assisted Family Formation Proudly Celebrates the Passage of the Child-Parent Security Act

On February 15, 2021, New York will lift a thirty-year ban on compensated surrogacy following the enactment of the Child-Parent Security Act, the nation's most progressive assisted family building legislation. New York Attorneys for Adoption and Assisted Family Formation (NYA AFF) expresses its gratitude to New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo and to the New York Legislature for creating an urgently needed predictable legal and ethical framework for recognizing the parentage of children created through assisted reproduction. NYA AFF further extends its thanks for the tremendous contributions made by RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, Family Equality and to every member of the Protecting Modern Families Coalition for their fierce advocacy in bringing this legal reform to the State of New York.

We, at NYA AFF, proudly celebrate the passage of the Child-Parent Security Act as a victory for all children born and families formed by assisted means and for members of New York State's LGBTQ+ community wanting to become parents. We thank Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Attorney General Tish James, Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member Amy Paulin, Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte, Melissa DeRosa, Secretary to Governor Cuomo and so many others in the New York Legislature and to Reverend Stan J. Sloan at Family Equality and both Barb Collura and Risa L. Levine at RESOLVE who lead a team of advocates in standing up for the women and men of New York struggling to create families and for those New York women committed to acting as gestational surrogates. Because of the Child-Parent Security Act, the respective interests of intended parents, those children born via assisted means and the women who act as gestational surrogates will enjoy the strongest legal and health protections afforded parties engaged in collaborative reproduction, anywhere in the United States.

NYA AFF is especially proud of the CPSA's Surrogates' Bill of Rights, the first in the country, which makes law the most extensive protections available to gestational surrogates. We are excited that the Child-Parent Security Act and, particularly, the Surrogates' Bill of Rights will serve as model legislation for other states intending to protect all families formed through assisted reproduction technologies.

New York Attorneys for Adoption and Assisted Family Formation (NYA AFF) is a group of adoption and assisted reproduction law attorneys and other child-welfare professionals from across New York State, who work with adoptive families, birth parents, intended parents, adoption agencies, children, child welfare agencies and the court system to protect and advocate for the rights of adoptive children, children born through assisted reproduction and their families. From conception, through to the CPSA introduction to the New York Legislature in 2012, and for the eight years following its introduction, NYA AFF attorneys played an integral role in getting the CPSA to Governor Cuomo's desk for signature.

NYA AFF is grateful for the support, guidance and encouragement offered by the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (AAAA) throughout this process. Each member of NYA AFF and specifically those NYA AFF attorneys who drafted the language of the CPSA and advocated for its passage are admitted fellows at AAAA.

NYA AFF agrees with our Governor that, in New York, love most certainly does make a family.

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