



We are egg donors

## Floor Alert

### Vote NO on AB 2531

*This bill incentivizes invasive procedures that expose women to substantial short-term and unknown long-term health risks.*

**The health effects of egg provision are understudied.** Although egg provision<sup>1</sup> has become a mainstay of fertility treatment, many women providing eggs for reproductive purposes have experienced serious complications. Before the commercial market in eggs is expanded to the research sector, studies are needed to determine the short-term and long-term health risks to women. Few studies have been conducted since SB 1260 was passed in 2006, when women's health advocacy and reproductive justice groups articulated the same need.

**Insufficient data makes informed consent impossible.** Given the acknowledged inadequacy of evidence about short-term and long-term health risks of egg provision, women are not given the opportunity to make a truly informed decision about whether to undergo the process. While women are completely capable of making decisions about their bodies, the absence of data and the lack of a national egg provider registry leave women without the information they need to provide informed consent. This bill does not ensure a level of public health security that women should be able to rely on.

**Low-income women, women of color, and immigrant women are most likely to be affected.** Paying women for their eggs for research creates an "undue incentive" for women of limited financial means to participate in a procedure that has not been shown to be safe. Since low-income women are disproportionately women of color and immigrants, they are likely to be the most highly impacted. They may also have limited access to medical care should they experience adverse health effects beyond the current standard of care for egg provision, and less likely to benefit from any scientific advances that may result from the research.

**This bill conflicts with national recommendations for federal policy and with state law.** Existing California law allows researchers to reimburse egg providers for their direct expenses associated with the egg provision process. But payment beyond reimbursement for direct costs conflicts with recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences 2010 guidelines, which state that "no payments, cash or in kind, should be provided for donating oocytes for research purposes." Proposition 71, now part of the state of California's Constitution, also prohibits CIRM-funded researchers from compensating women beyond reimbursement.

**We ask for your NO vote on AB 2531**

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<sup>1</sup> For egg provision, a woman must undergo a series of self- or nurse-administered injections over the course of several weeks, with powerful and understudied hormones to first "shut down" and then stimulate egg production, followed by surgical extraction under general anesthesia.