



Impacting Reproductive
Care Worldwide

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Recent and Ongoing ASRM-Led Policy Initiatives

In approximately the last five years, ASRM has taken a leading role to advance and advocate on behalf of measures and policies covering:

Medical Research Funding

- NIH Medical Research
 - As a member of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, a coalition in support of increased funding for the National Institutes of Health, we have signed on to a letter joined by 330+ organizations calling for robust funding (in the amount of \$44.7 billion) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. We closely monitor related measures and maintain strong working relationships with key Hill staff and Members on the Appropriations Committees.
- NICHD
 - ASRM's Government Affairs Manager Rebecca O'Connor is currently serving as the Chair of the Friends of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).
 - Friends of NICHD is a coalition of over 100 organizations representing patients, providers, scientists, and caregivers who are united in our support for ensuring the health and welfare of women, children, families, and people with disabilities.
 - Among other things, in our role as chair, we will lead advocacy in support of NICHD, including testimony for submission the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees. Additionally, we will lead the effort to plan Congressional briefings on topics of importance to the membership of the coalition and serve as a liaison to the community for NIHCD Director Dr. Diana Bianchi and her staff.

IVF for Veterans

- ASRM is leading advocacy on S. 319 / H.R. 955, the *Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act* (lead sponsors: Sen. Murray and Rep. Larsen).
- This legislation will permanently allow Veterans with a service-connected injury causing infertility to access IVF medical

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treatments, which Department of Veterans Affairs currently offers via a temporary appropriation.

- This effort has been a longstanding priority for ASRM and our allies and we continue to gain traction.
- We are also evaluating opportunities to tack these reforms into another vehicle, such as the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Research Policy

- Fetal Tissue Research
 - ASRM has long been a vocal advocate on this topic and has worked to educate administration officials, lawmakers, and others about the role of human fetal tissue research in advancing science, improving human health, and saving lives.
 - In 2019, for example, ASRM joined other leading national and state healthcare organizations and professionals in communicating to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) our strong opposition to newly proposed, restrictive policies on research using human fetal tissue.
 - This is just the most recent example of our advocacy on this issue. By way of further example, in 2017, ASRM actively advocated to defeat an appropriations act proposal that would conflate human tissue research with abortion policies. We educated lawmakers that, in fact, fetal tissue research has a long history of bipartisan support and is something that should be lauded for its role in developing lifesaving treatments.
- Germ Line Gene Editing
 - ASRM has been virtually the only organization working to protect germ line gene editing. In 2019 we worked with Rep. Nita Lowey in an attempt to block the policy rider which prohibits the FDA from even accepting an application to evaluate the technique. We even led a successful effort to fend off an attempt to block Department of Defense researchers from working on gene editing which had been proposed in the Defense Authorization Bill.



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IVF for Federal Employees

- ASRM has recently engaged in productive conversations, joined by colleagues from RESOLVE, to encourage the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to take steps to ensure federal employees have access to IVF medical treatments. Conversations are ongoing and promising.
- We are also leading advocacy in support of federal legislation, the *Access to Infertility Treatment and Care Act* (led by Senator Cory Booker and Rosa DeLauro) to provide those who receive their healthcare through government-sponsored health plans, including TRICARE, the VA, the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program and others to have access to coverage for infertility services. This legislation also provides access to vital fertility preservation services for those, like cancer patients, who are at risk of infertility due to medical treatments such as chemotherapy and surgery (an issue we've also successfully worked with allies to advance on the state level in recent years).

ASRM's Capitol Hill Champions

ASRM is actively working, as we discussed, to ensure that we have broad, bipartisan support on the Hill, with an eye to members on key committees of jurisdiction, which include the House and Senate Appropriations Committees (and subcommittees), Committee on Veteran's Affairs, and House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Here are a few of our go-to champions:

- **Rep. Rosa DeLauro, (D-CT)**, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations, L-HHS Subcommittee
- **Sen. Tammy Duckworth** (D-IL), member, Senate Armed Services Committee
- **Sen. Patty Murray** (D-WA), Ranking Member on both the Senate HELP Committee and the Senate Appropriations, Labor-HHS Subcommittee
- **Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz** (D-FL), (member of the House Appropriations Committee)
- **Sen. Cory Booker** (D-NJ) (lead sponsor of
- **Rep. Rick Larsen** (D-WA), member House Armed Services Committee