



RESOLUTION ON THE EMBRYO PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The General Meeting of the Maltese Paediatric Association of the 20th April 2018 notes that:

1. the IVF programme at Mater Dei Hospital, as regulated by the Embryo Protection Act, aims to help couples with fertility problems to have children;
2. the problem of higher order pregnancies, with the associated medical risks to the child, has been practically resolved;
3. the members of the House of Representatives are currently debating amendments to the same law;
4. the new legislation allows for embryo freezing which carries a substantial risk to the life of the embryo;
5. the new law also introduces the donation of unused embryos for anonymous adoption;
6. the proposed amendments allow anonymous sperm or ova donation to an individual who desires to have a child.

As a foremost professional body safeguarding the health of children in the Maltese islands, the Maltese Paediatric Association resolves that the members of the House of Representatives should ensure that:

- A. None of the embryos are denied the right to live or have their right to live suspended or endangered as would occur with embryo freezing.
- B. All embryos should have an equal right to be brought up by their natural parents.
- C. Individuals born through IVF should have the right to know the identity of their biological parents in order to prevent them having children from potentially biological relatives as this would drastically increase the risk of genetic defects in their children, with all the associated human suffering this brings.

Dr Paul Soler
President
20th April 2018

Dr Mark Buttigieg
Secretary
20th April 2018