Gestational Surrogacy for Same-Sex Couples
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Gestational Surrogacy
The term “gestational surrogacy” is used when a woman, known as a gestational carrier, volunteers to carry and deliver a child that is not genetically related to her. Couples tend to turn to surrogacy when they are unable to have a child of their own.

In the case of gestational surrogacy, a previously created embryo is implanted in the gestational carrier. Although heterosexual couples who experience fertilization complications often turn to surrogacy, same-sex couples also use surrogacy as an alternative to adoption.

Background
According to surrogacy scholar Mary Lyndon Shanley, after World War II, same-sex relationships became more visible and couples increasingly turned to “surrogate motherhood.” However, same-sex couples continue to have different surrogacy rights than heterosexual couples today. In many states, same-sex couples must adopt their own biological son or daughter if they use a surrogate. The same is not required for heterosexual couples.

Opposing vs. Supporting
- In general, religious and conservative groups tend to be opposed to surrogacy and consider it to be “anti-life.” This includes surrogacy involving both opposite-sex and same-sex parents.
- Some state lawmakers, most recently in Louisiana, have tried to pass surrogacy laws that by design would block gay couples from becoming intended parents through surrogacy.
- In June, the Governor of Louisiana, Bobby Jindal vetoed the surrogacy parenting bill, but not because of its restrictions on same-sex surrogacy. Instead, he sided with conservatives regarding the impact of surrogacy on traditional families.

California, Nevada, and Illinois are generally considered surrogacy-friendly states.
- Center for Surrogate Parenting (CSP) is the first center in the world to help a same-sex couple in 1989. Sensible Surrogacy also supports same-sex couples. They believe that regardless of the gender of your partner, everyone who wants to be a parent should be able to have a child.

Celebrity Couples Who Chose Surrogacy

Elton John & David Furnish
Neil Patrick Harris & David Burtka

The Evolution of Surrogacy Laws in 2012

This timeline shows the evolution of surrogacy laws throughout 2012. It talks about surrogacy as a whole but also mentions some of the restrictions that are placed on same-sex couples. It shows that surrogacy rights are debated all over the world.

Conclusions
Surrogacy should be an open option for everyone. Same-sex couples should not be differentiated from heterosexual couples nor should they have any surrogacy restrictions placed on them because of sexual orientation. Moreover, concerns over the parenting of same-sex couples is unfounded. The American Sociological Association explains that there is no difference in a child’s well-being if raised by same-sex or opposite-sex parents.

As a group, we believe that every couple should be granted the chance to have a family without restrictions.

References

Websites for Action
- http://www.fertility-docs.com
- http://www.menhavingbabies.org
- http://itsconceivablenow.com