

# Paralyzed Veterans of America

## **Stance on Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Tissue Research**

[https://pva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/FY2024-PVA-Research-Foundation-Policies-and-Procedures\\_final.pdf](https://pva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/FY2024-PVA-Research-Foundation-Policies-and-Procedures_final.pdf)

Paralyzed Veterans of America have continued to uphold their stance on utilizing all human stem cells and human tissue in research in their policies and procedures FY 2024 booklet:

Human Tissue—The Foundation requires that all individuals and institutions that conduct research using human tissue, including stem cells, with Foundation funds adhere to all federal, state, and local laws pertaining to the use of this tissue, including IRB procedures and approvals. Human Subjects—Studies that involve human subjects must ensure that informed consent is obtained from the participants. A copy of the final Subject consent form must accompany the proposal (see supporting documents). A letter from the applicant's IRB stating that adequate protection of human subjects' rights will be provided must be submitted with the proposal (p. 13).

## **In Vitro Fertilization**

[https://pva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Policy-Priorities\\_single-pages\\_01.09.pdf](https://pva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Policy-Priorities_single-pages_01.09.pdf)

As part of PVA's 2023 policy priorities, PVA advocates for in vitro fertilization in the following statement: "Assisted Reproductive Technologies Congress must repeal VA's ban on IVF and authorize VA to provide assisted reproductive technology, including IVF, surrogacy, and gamete donation at VA for any veterans enrolled in VA health care."

<https://pva.org/blog/perspectives-bearing-the-battle-should-not-preclude-bearing-a-child/>

This article from 2017 condemns the ban on IVF for veterans and references both Planned Parenthood and abortion as factors to consider for a veteran who may not want a family right away. This is what they say below:

Regardless of one's view on Planned Parenthood or abortion, those who believe we have an obligation to return our veterans to whole after they suffer catastrophic loss must first consider their own sense of completeness before deciding whether categorical moral imperatives should be factored into their desires to raise a family by any available means.

<https://pva.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2022-PVA-IRS-Form-990.pdf>

PVA's FY 2022 990 lists that their Legislative Program focused on "protecting access to the VA's specialized health care services" which included, "Assisted Reproductive Technologies" (pp. 55-56).

### **Abortion and Contraception**

<https://news.va.gov/press-room/paralyzed-veterans-of-america/>

This press release from the Department of Veterans Affairs appears to be a speech to members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America in May of 2023. PVA is a partner of the VA.

In this speech from Denis McDonough, the US Secretary of Veterans Affairs, McDonough acknowledges the VA's advocacy goals as the following:

We're committed to providing women Vets the full range of health services they need for their health and well-being; reproductive health, contraception and fertility services, family building, gender-specific cardiac care, and more. So our Women's Health and SCI/D experts are working hard to ensure that we are providing services for women Vets with SCI/D in the most appropriate environment.



P.O. Box 6170, Falmouth, VA 22403 • 540-659-4171 • [ALL.org](http://ALL.org) • [kvandyke@all.org](mailto:kvandyke@all.org)

© 2023 American Life League, Inc. All rights reserved. Permission is given to cite or copy parts of the document as long as attribution is given to American Life League (ALL.org).