



VOICES for Alabama's Children's Statement on the Recent Developments in In-Vitro Fertilization

On behalf of the children and families that we represent, VOICES for Alabama's Children expresses concern over the Alabama Supreme Court's ruling in [LePage v. Mobile Infirmary Clinic, Inc.](#) regarding the legal status of embryos related to In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) care and services to ensure continued access in Alabama. VOICES supports healthy, growing families however those families originate. For some, it is the natural progression and growth of the family unit without the need for medical intervention, it may be foster and/or adoption of children and for others, it may be medical intervention such as IVF care and services.

Since 2007, the U.S. child population declined by 20% by 2021. The *Alabama Kids Count Data Book*, the most comprehensive source of the state's child well-being data and proudly published annually by VOICES, shows that Alabama's child population has mirrored the national trend, with our child population dropping from 28.2% of the population in 2000 to 24.8% in 2021. The Court's ruling regarding IVF will no doubt exacerbate the declining child population.

Further, in the face of a shortage of physicians and other healthcare providers, a decision like this puts the state at a significant disadvantage in recruiting and retaining physicians, particularly those who care for pregnant women, babies, and children. The concern and alarm over the Court's decision has already forced UAB, the state's largest healthcare system, to halt its physicians from providing IVF services and other providers will likely do the same.

We encourage all policymakers to keep in mind the many unintended consequences that could impact Alabama children and families and the state's future.