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## Surrogacy Bill Nears Due Date

After 10 years of trying, Legislature closes in on passing nation's most far-reaching regulations

By BILL AINSWORTH

SACRAMENTO - After 10 years of attempts, the state Legislature has gone further than ever toward passing the nation's first set of comprehensive regulations for surrogate parenting.

Opposite ends of the political spectrum - from the religious right, which equates surrogacy with slavery, to the ACLU. which advocates stronger rights for surrogates - are trying to defeat Senate Bill 937. But with a case before the state Supreme Court bringing new attention to surrogacy and backed by the Sacramento lobbying arm of Los Angeles' Nossaman, Guthner, Knox & Elliott, the measure has already cleared the Senate and will be heard by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on Wednesday.

Leading the support of SB 937 is a Southern California company that will be regulated by it, the Beverly Hills-based Center for Surrogate Parenting.

Director William Handel said the push to pass surrogacy legislation is an attempt to head off restrictive laws and to bring certainty to surrogacy by defining the rights of the infertile couple, the surrogate



SURROGACY LAW'S LOBBYIST: "Clearly, every once in a while a disputed case is going to end up in the courts," said Margaret Catzen. "The question then becomes, Do you give the courts some guidance or do you just let them fly by the seat of their pants?"

for schlockers to come into the market. We believe in surrogacy. We don't want to see it fall apart."

representation for parents and surrogates. The bill "permits creation of new families, but avoids those sad disputes when such arrangements fail." said the measure's







































