

## Ministry hoping to legalize surrogacy

Surrogacy would likely be legalized in the Ministry of Health and Welfare's latest amendment, although the ultimate decision would be left to lawmakers, Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan (薛瑞元) said on Wednesday in his first public comment in support of the matter.

Hsueh made the statement before a meeting of the legislature's Social Welfare and Environmental Hygiene Committee, a day after Taiwan People's Party Chairman Ko Wen-je (柯文哲) said he would legalize surrogacy and lift restrictions on donating egg cells if elected.

The Assisted Reproduction Act (人工生殖法) currently outlaws surrogacy, but the ministry has been drafting an amendment based on input from various sectors, said Hsueh, who previously said he has "no fixed position" on the issue.



**Minister of Health and Welfare Hsueh Jui-yuan, center, speaks to reporters before a meeting at the legislature in Taipei on Wednesday.**

Photo: George Tsorng, Taipei Times

A public debate is still needed on whether to maintain the ban, but the amendment is likely to legalize surrogacy to provide more choice to the public, he said.

However, the ministry would respect their choice if legislators decide to maintain the ban, he added.