January 31, 2018

Senator Finance Committee  
Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD 21401  

RE: Senate Bill 271- SUPPORT  

Dear Committee Members:

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the approximately 130,000 Maryland citizens with infertility. We are pleased to support SB 271 and urge this Committee to favorably pass this bill out of Committee. SB 271 will require insurance coverage for fertility preservation for insureds diagnosed with cancer and others whose medical treatment may cause infertility.

Patients with cancer are not only surviving their disease but living long and productive lives. The vast majority of survivors want and hope for a family someday. The good news is they are being informed of fertility preservation procedures that allow them to take action before starting their treatment. Sadly, they are also told this treatment is not covered by their health insurance and they must pay out-of-pocket – and very quickly – in order to preserve their fertility and still follow their treatment protocol. Because of this barrier to access to care, patients are choosing less effective treatments for their cancer in order to save their fertility. This leads to disastrous, and costly, results.

There is a simple solution that saves lives, allows patients to follow their treatment protocol, and gives them the hope and promise of a family: provide health insurance for fertility preservation procedures.

We respectfully ask that you favorably pass SB 271 out of Committee and demonstrate your commitment to the future of Maryland families.

Sincerely,

Barbara Collura  
President/CEO