January 30, 2018

Senator Bryan Townsend
Chair, Senate Health, Children & Social Services Committee
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Senate Bill SB 139 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Townsend:

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the tens of thousands of Delaware citizens with this disease. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and are pleased to support SB 139 and urge this Committee to favorably pass this bill out of Committee. SB 139 will update Delaware Code relating to insurance coverage for obstetrical and gynecological services to include insurance coverage for fertility care services.

Statistics show that one in eight individuals or couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, and all racial, ethnic and religious lines. Medical conditions such as endometriosis, ovulation disorders, luteal phase defect, premature ovarian failure and male factor are some causes of infertility. The American Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease. As such, infertility should be covered by health insurance like other diseases.

Family building options for this population are costly; 67% of affected individuals or couples report spending at least $10,000 on adoption and medical treatment for infertility. In fact, cost is the number one barrier to seeking family building assistance, since 46% of affected people lack insurance coverage for infertility treatment.
Delaware should join the list of states that require infertility coverage, including its neighbors, Maryland and New Jersey. SB 139 complies with current medical standards of care, including coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF), the most advanced medical treatment for infertility, and coverage for fertility preservation treatments to allow women and men to preserve their fertility before undergoing cancer treatment or other medical procedures that may cause infertility. Such coverage provides the best outcome for parents and their offspring.

We respectfully ask that you favorably pass SB 139 out of Committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all the Delaware couples struggling to build their families. We are happy to provide you additional information on this issue as RESOLVE has been providing support, information, and advocacy for the infertility community since 1974. I can be reached at bcollura@resolve.org and our website is www.resolve.org.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Collura
President/CEO