February 4, 2019

Senate Commerce Committee
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Cavanaugh and members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for An Act Relative To Access To Fertility Care (SB 279).

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with the disease of infertility.

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.

New Hampshire should join the list of states that require infertility coverage, including fellow New England states, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. SB 279 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 279 out of Committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all the New Hampshire 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