April 18, 2019

Assemblymember Jim Wood
Chair, Assembly Health Committee
State Capitol Room 6005
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 767 (Wicks)
RESOLVE Position: Support/Sponsor

Dear Assemblymember Wood:

I am writing to express RESOLVE’s strong support and co-sponsorship of AB 767 (Wicks): Health care coverage: infertility.

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the more than 850,000 California citizens with this disease. 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.

California should join the growing list of states that require infertility coverage. The state’s current insurance law only requires insurers to “offer” coverage of infertility treatments. AB 767 would update the current law to
require insurers to “cover” infertility treatment. AB 767 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. Such coverage provides the best outcome for parents and their offspring.

We respectfully ask that you favorably pass AB 767 out of Committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all the Californians 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,

[Signature]

Barbara Collura
President/CEO