Frequently Asked Questions - and Answers!

1. Are the bills scored?
   ANSWER: This question refers to the process of having each bill sent to the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, to determine the cost to the government and our economy if the bill passed. You may get asked this question from staffers. None of the bills have been scored during this session of Congress.

2. Are hearings scheduled for our bills?
   ANSWER: None of the bills are scheduled for hearings at this time.

3. Why doesn’t the NIH funding request have a bill number and sponsor information?
   ANSWER: The funding for NIH is through the standard Appropriations process, and while there is a bill number, it is not needed for reference as every office knows the NIH is funded through the Appropriation bill for the Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS.

4. I thought we got IVF4Vets. What does this bill do?
   ANSWER: We were successful in convincing Congress to require the VA to allocate funds to begin to offer IVF for injured Veterans, and this was accomplished via the annual Appropriations process. However, Congress did not provide a permanent solution by removing a longstanding ban at the VA on covering IVF. While Veterans are getting access to IVF currently, this mechanism of allocating funding via the Appropriations process requires it to be approved again and again, on an annual basis. It is not a good way to administer this benefit. In addition, the current VA policy does not help everyone we want it to, whereas the bill provides a more appropriate benefit. Having the ban permanently overturned is better for the VA in administering the benefit, and it’s better for our Veterans.

5. Why do we keep advocating for the same issues?
   ANSWER: Because we have not yet achieved our advocacy goals to help build American families! It took 12 years to get the Family and Medical Leave Act passed – a policy measure that seems so basic. We need to stay the course and keep showing up. The second we stop, some other issue will fill the void. We are the largest group of advocates that annually advocate for IVF4Vets and insurance coverage for infertility medical treatments. If we stop, we will leave a large void. We can’t give up!