September 6, 2019

Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities  
House of Representatives  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate Chair Chang-Diaz, House Chair Khan, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, I am writing to express our strong support for S.77/H.139, an Act Relative to Parentage to Promote Children’s Security. This bill, known as the Massachusetts Parentage Act (MPA), updates Massachusetts statutes to clarify who can be a parent and how to establish legal parentage. Establishing a legal parent-child relationship is a key source of stability and security for a child. The MPA is based on the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA) of 2017, which is a model, uniform law that advises all states to ensure their parentage statutes are constitutional.

RESOLVE 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. RESOLVE helps people with infertility pursue medical treatment, adoption, third party reproduction, and all other family building options.

The MPA will help protect the offspring that result from third party reproduction as well as the intended parents, donors, and gestational carriers. RESOLVE believes this bill will remove any ambiguity in the court system and allow for uniform treatment of all parties who enter into a collaborative agreement in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Massachusetts has served as a leader in this field and we view this bill as an extension of that leadership.
We respectfully ask that you favorably pass S.77/H.139 out of Committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all the Massachusetts 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