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. Where can I find out information if my elected official is already a co-sponsor of the bills we are advocating for?
   ANSWER: It is important to do a little research prior to your virtual meetings to see if your elected officials are already co-sponsors and supportive of pro-family legislation. We have compiled a list of all the co-sponsors of all the bills and resolutions here. Your State Captain also has a list of all the co-sponsors.

5. What should my state delegation do if our elected officials are already co-sponsors and supportive of all of RESOLVE bills? Does our meeting still make an impact?
   ANSWER: This is a great question and a great problem to have! First and foremost: say thank you! Like anyone else, a thank you can go a long way with a lawmaker, who most often hears people asking for things or upset about something. And yes, your advocacy still absolutely makes a difference, even if your lawmaker has already signed on. Think about it: if you signed on to a letter or donated to a charity and never heard a peep back, would you be more or less inclined to do so again? Your thanks goes a long way. Just knowing and seeing that you've taken time out of your life to speak to them about the issues at hand sends a powerful message: this matters to you, their constituent.

6. Why might an office decide not to become a co-sponsor of a bill or resolution?
   ANSWER: Some congressional offices have specific policies in place where the Senator/Representative does not sign on to any disease-specific bills. Some offices also have policies regarding not signing on to bills assigned to committees or specific resolutions. This does not mean that the office is not supportive of pro-family legislation and/or RESOLVE.

7. 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.

8. 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, insurance coverage for infertility medical treatments, and the adoption tax credit. If we stop, we will leave a large void. We can’t give up!