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February 15, 2021

Representative Kevin D. Jansen
Chairman, Health and Human Services Committee
South Dakota House of Representatives
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: House Bill 1248 – Oppose

Dear Chairman Jansen and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the more than 23,000 couples in South Dakota who are trying to have babies in the face of infertility, RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association strongly objects to HB 1248.

In vitro fertilization (IVF) has been practiced in this country for 40 years, since 1981, bringing more than 73,000 wanted babies to overjoyed couples each year in the U.S. alone, and more than 8 million babies worldwide. These medical treatments are medically proven and mainstream.

Yet, after all these years, HB 1248 would single out these life-giving, pro-family medical treatments from among all others and subject them to a new regimen of government surveillance and tracking.

First, to the extent that the proposed tracking is aimed at infertility patient protection, it is unnecessary. By federal law, every assisted reproductive technology (ART) procedure in South Dakota and in the U.S., including IVF, already must be reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This information is carefully gathered, analyzed, and reported to the public by the CDC. The purpose is known: to provide patients with standard outcome data. Thus, South Dakota need not require its Department of Health to engage in a duplicative effort. No other state requires this additional reporting.

The bill will also harm patients by increasing their medical costs. There are costs associated with creating unnecessary, onerous paperwork for providers and

laboratories. These reporting costs will add to the significant financial burden faced by most infertility patients in South Dakota, since South Dakota is one of the states that does not require insurers to cover infertility medical treatments. Thus, more South Dakotans could lose the chance to have a family due to the increased cost of treatment if this bill were to pass.

RESOLVE's mission is to support people building families. Thanks to the medical treatment of IVF, millions of wanted babies have been born to loving families. We believe that HB 1248 would hurt the very people who struggle to have babies. It does not improve patient outcomes and could harm those of us who need medical help to have children. As the voice of the 1 in 8 couples who face infertility in South Dakota and across the country, RESOLVE opposes this bill and urges you to vote NO on HB 1248.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Collura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Collura
President/CEO
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association