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March 22, 2021

Representative Thaddeus Jones
Chair, Insurance Committee
Illinois General Assembly
705 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

RE: House Bill 3709 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Jones and Members of the Insurance Committee:

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the more than 400,000 Illinois residents who struggle to build a family in the state. We are pleased to support HB 3709 and urge this Committee to favorably pass this bill.

HB 3709 updates the state's existing infertility insurance law to be inclusive of LGBTQ+ families and single parents. The legislation includes anti-discrimination language and an updated, inclusive definition of infertility used in other states and most recently passed into law in Colorado in 2020.

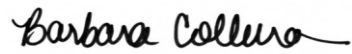
Illinois was one of the first states to pass an infertility insurance law covering in vitro fertilization in 1991. This 30-year-old law defines infertility as the inability to conceive after one year of unprotected sexual intercourse. By its very definition, coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of infertility is limited to heterosexual couples. LGBTQ individuals and single people do not meet this heteronormative definition of infertility. In other words, the law discriminates against the LGBTQ community and unpartnered individuals. And it creates an unfair financial burden on these populations.

The average cost of an IVF cycle in the U.S. is approximately \$15,000. A recent survey found that patients accrued \$30,000 of debt on average after paying out of pocket for fertility treatment. Such costs put fertility treatment out of reach for those not covered by the current insurance law.

By updating the law, Illinois will once again become a leader in helping its residents – all residents, not just heterosexual couples – build their families. The bill also reduces the “waiting period” for fertility treatments from one year to six months for women over the age of 35, as recommended by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, to achieve healthier outcomes at a lower cost. These updates will significantly improve access to the standard of care for anyone who struggles to build a family.

We respectfully ask that you favorably pass HB 3709 out of Committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all Illinoisans 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,

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

Barbara Collura
President and CEO