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April 22, 2020

Governor Larry Hogan, Chair &
Governor Andrew Cuomo, Vice Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001
Via info@nga.org

Dear Governor Hogan, Governor Cuomo and Members of the NGA Executive Committee :

I am writing on behalf of the millions of Americans who are struggling to build a family and who have been negatively affected by restrictions placed on health care services due to COVID-19. RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the 7.3 million women and men in the U.S. with the disease of infertility. **We want to ensure that infertility treatments are not classified any differently than other medically necessary treatments**, as states consider when and where to lift restrictions on health care services.

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. Medical conditions such as endometriosis, ovulation disorders, premature ovarian failure, and male factors are some causes of infertility. The American Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the World Health Organization all recognize infertility as a disease.

The goal of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) – of which in vitro fertilization (IVF) is the leading practice – is to help people with the disease of infertility build their families. These medically necessary treatments may be a patient’s only pathway to having a child, and such treatments are often time-sensitive, especially for women 35 years of age or older or those with diminished ovarian reserve. Cancer patients also face a race against time to preserve their fertility before undergoing potentially sterilizing cancer treatment.

We understand why many states have restricted access to certain health care services during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to protect the supply of personal protective equipment and to flatten the curve of the coronavirus. As states consider when and where to lift the restrictions, we want to ensure that infertility treatments are not classified any differently than other medically necessary treatments.

We ask that the Governors of each state consider the compelling needs of the millions of Americans who need advanced medical treatments to bring much wanted children into the world. We respectfully urge you to work with the physicians and medical societies in each state or region to determine how patients can access care in the safest, most timely manner. There is strong precedent for it: Governor Cuomo and the New York Department of Health recently specified that fertility services, including infertility treatment and procedures, are essential services, and that treatment decisions be made between the patient and clinical provider.

We are happy to provide additional information on this issue or to be helpful any way we can, 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 L. Collura
President/CEO