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January 24, 2022

Senator Verdin, III  
Chairman of Senate Medical Affairs Committee  
South Carolina Senate  
101 Gressette Bldg.  
Columbia, SC 29201

**Re: S.988 Equal Protection for Unborn Babies Act– Oppose**

Dear Chairman Verdin, III and Members of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee,

I am the President/CEO of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, representing the 7.3 million American men and women – and more than 100,000 South Carolina citizens -- who face infertility. We at RESOLVE are greatly concerned about S.988, which we recognize as "personhood" legislation to confer rights on microscopic embryos from the moment of fertilization.

By equating embryos and born human beings, S.988 has implications that pose a serious threat to infertility medical treatment. If microscopic, fertilized eggs/embryos are full human children, anything that puts an embryo at risk could be a violation of law, even if its goal is the undeniable social good of helping someone have a baby. This law could impair or prevent doctors from practicing in vitro fertilization (IVF) in accord with the best standards of medical care, because it may be deemed to pose too great a risk to embryos.

Cryopreservation (embryo freezing) would change drastically: it might be outlawed altogether, or couples might be forced to transfer all frozen embryos to attempt more pregnancies.

Cancer patients whose only hope lies in freezing embryos could be prevented from having biological children.

ICSI, the treatment that has enabled hundreds of thousands of men to father children they otherwise never could, could be deemed to pose a risk to an embryo and therefore unlawful. Assisted hatching and pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, all standard medical treatments that help people have babies -- these could very well be prohibited if S. 988 becomes law.

If lawmakers are serious about re-defining embryos as human beings, then women with uterine problems could be forbidden from attempting pregnancy with IVF because of the risks to the embryo of failed implantation.

S. 988 could take from parents the rights of disposition over their embryos.

The net effect is that S. 988 would chill the practice of reproductive medicine and would prevent couples in South Carolina with infertility from being able to have families. This legislation is anti-family and we urge thoughtful members of the Senate to step back and reflect on whether they really want to prevent South Carolina men and women from having the families they dream of.

We respectfully request that the Medical Affairs Committee vote No on S. 988 to show that South Carolina does indeed care about families. Please contact me at [barb.collura@resolve.org](mailto:barb.collura@resolve.org) should you have any questions regarding our position. Thank you in advance for voting No on this bill.

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