



WORKING AS A STATE DELEGATION

You will be in meetings with 2-20 people representing your state or regional area. Here is a tool for coordinating your efforts and making the greatest impact.

Information about your virtual meetings:

- Meetings will take place either over the phone or via Zoom.
- Attire- please wear an Advocacy Day t-shirt or business professional dress.
- If your meeting is via Zoom, please change your background to one of the Advocacy Day background pictures. (Link is on the website: www.resolve.org/advocacyday under Advocacy Day Materials)

House and Senate Meetings

- Prior to your virtual meetings, Congressional offices will receive the Leave Behind document which lists the issues and bills we are advocating for, along with an Infographic with facts and figures.
- Decide **ahead of time** who will speak about each part of the agenda for the meetings. Based on the script provided below, up to 6 different people can speak in a meeting.
- **Localize it! Paint a picture of how the issues directly affect the lives of the people in your state.**
 - Helpful links – [Fertility Scorecard](#) and [Number of Infertile by State](#)
- If certain individuals relate directly to an issue, have them speak about it, e.g., if anyone in your delegation is military personnel or veteran, or federal employee. A personal story will underscore the importance of the issues.
- Be succinct and to the point. Inspire them to help advance our issues. Underscore it with your passion and personal story.
- After each virtual meeting, assign someone in the group to send a follow up email and thank you note to the staffer, Senator or Representative.

Script/Speakers for meeting with Senator _____

Assign a person from your delegation to address each of the 6 points below. If you have more than 6 advocates in your meeting, determine who might be a new advocate and/or who might have a personal connection to the issue and assign them to speak. Ideally you will have different people speak in each of the Senate meetings to give the maximum number of advocates a chance to talk. If you have less than 6 advocates in your meeting, you will need to assign more than one talking point to each person.

1. Introduction. Affirm the Pro-Family agenda of the Senator

Assigned Speaker: _____.

- “Hi. My name is XXX and I am one of your constituents from city, state. I am an advocate with RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. RESOLVE is a non-profit patient advocacy organization, and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of reproductive medicine. Thank you for virtually meeting with our group today and thank you to Senator XXX for supporting pro-family legislation.” If you are meeting with a Senator that is already a co-sponsor of any of our bills, thank them for being supportive of specific legislation. This information is available through your State Captain and can also be found on our legislative scorecard document on the website: www.resolve.org/advocacyday.
- “We/I have pro-family issues to talk about today. We have a document to give you that outlines our issues and the bills that we are supporting. Our Key Issues are:
 - Coverage at Work for all Americans
 - Removing Barriers to Family Building for the Military
 - Removing Barriers to Family Building for our Veterans

2. Share facts about Family Building/Infertility – personal story if available

Assigned Speaker: _____.

Did you know that infertility affects 1 in 8 Americans in the United States? I am personally affected as a patient/provider...

- Millions of people who want to have children can't. 1 in 8 couples have trouble conceiving or carrying a pregnancy to term.
- Having children is fundamental; it's part of one's identity. Being unable to have a child affects people physically, financially, and emotionally.

- Let me tell you about infertility in our state:
 - Number of infertile constituents _____
- Share your story and how your family building struggles have impacted your life.

3. Coverage at Work for all Americans

Assigned Speaker: _____.

Lack of insurance coverage for medical treatments and lack of benefits for adoption assistance is a major barrier to family building.

- The largest employer in the U.S., the federal government, does not provide access to care for family building for federal employees. This impacts millions of people.
- We also see lack of access for vital fertility preservation medical services for those, like cancer patients, who are at risk of infertility due to medical treatments such as chemotherapy and surgery.
- Only 13 states have mandated insurance coverage for infertility treatments that include IVF, and coverage varies widely. Our state DOES/DOES NOT have mandated coverage. [States with IVF mandate: AR, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, MA, MD, NH, NJ, NY, RI, and UT.]
- State mandates only cover fully insured employers in that state, so that leaves out the military, federal employees, and many people covered by private insurance through their employer.
- We believe everyone should have the same equal access to care and the right to build their family.
- *Share Personal Story of impact of insurance coverage or lack thereof. If professional, share how lack of insurance impacts those struggling to build their family.*

SPECIFIC ASKS:

1. Can we count on Senator <NAME> to support removing barriers to family building at the largest employer in the U.S., the federal government? If YES, would he/she consider reaching out to Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to encourage them to consider updates to the benefits to remove these barriers? RESOLVE/ASRM can provide the Senator with talking points.
2. Would your boss show his/her support for these issues by speaking out publicly and encouraging employers in our state/district to prioritize family building benefits for their employees? [If YES, suggest that the Senator do this through an op/ed, a blog, or even a tweet. RESOLVE and ASRM can offer talking points.]

4. Removing Barriers to Family Building for the Military

Assigned Speaker: _____.

Did you know that our military service members, including the Reserves and National Guard, have extremely limited access to family building benefits?

- The insurance carrier for the Military, TRICARE, has an extremely limited benefit for people whose infertility can be proven to be caused by a service-connected injury or illness.
- This leaves out many people who suffer from the leading causes of infertility such as PCOS and endometriosis.
- Our Military should have access to freeze their sperm and eggs before a deployment or training exercise, given the considerable risk of harming their future fertility. Yet, this is not covered.
- Even adoption assistance is limited.
- Given the frequent moves, deployments and separations, family building is already a challenge.
- It doesn't seem fair that our Military is not given equal access to care and the right to build their family.
- RESOLVE & ASRM have strong relationships with military organizations and can be a resource to your office on this issue.
- *Share Personal Story if an advocate is in the Military.*

5. Removing Barriers to Family Building for our Veterans

Assigned Speaker: _____.

- Under current federal law, infertility services are covered by the Veterans Health Administration through very narrow parameters, excluding many who served from getting the treatment they need to build their families.
- Currently access to treatments like IVF are only available to Veterans with a service-connected condition, who are legally married, and they must use their own egg and sperm.
- We believe there should be support for Veterans to navigate their family building options, find a provider that meets their needs, and ensure continuity of care.
- Veterans don't have access to adoption assistance.
- *Share Personal Story if an advocate is a Veteran.*

SPECIFIC ASK:

1. Can we count on your boss to support removing barriers to family building for those actively serving and Veterans? If YES, please review the list of bills on our Leave Behind document as we'd like him/her to co-sponsor these bills.

6. Follow Up and Thank You

Assigned Speaker: _____.

- Ask if the staffer/Senator has any questions about the Issues and the Asks you made.
- Remind them that you send them our Leave Behind document if they don't already have it.
- Ask them for a good contact email/number to follow up with them in a few weeks after they have had a chance to review the Issues and list of bills we support.
- Make sure to thank the staffer/Senator for taking the time to meet with you.

Script/Speakers for meeting with Representative _____

Assign a person from your delegation to address each of the 6 points below. If you have more than 6 advocates in your meeting, determine who might be a new advocate and/or who might have a personal connection to the issue and assign them to speak. If you have less than 6 advocates in your meeting, you will need to assign more than one talking point to each person.

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Assigned Speaker: _____.

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SPECIFIC ASKS:

3. Can we count on Congressman/woman <NAME> to support removing barriers to family building at the largest employer in the U.S., the federal government? If YES, would he/she consider reaching out to Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to encourage them to consider updates to the benefits to remove these barriers? RESOLVE/ASRM can provide the Member with talking points.
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