



## 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 meetings and making the greatest impact. The first script covers your Senate meetings and the second script (starting on page 6), covers your House meetings.

### 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 to backgrounds to choose from is here: [www.resolve.org/advocacyday](http://www.resolve.org/advocacyday) under Advocate Training Resources/Advocacy Day Materials)

### House and Senate Meetings

- Prior to your virtual meetings, Congressional offices will be sent the Leave Behind document which lists the issues and bills we are advocating for, along with an Infographic with facts and figures. However, staff may not have the document in front of them during the meetings, and they may not have read it in advance.
- Decide **ahead of time** who will speak about each part of the meeting. Based on the script provided below, up to 7 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 link: [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 in the military or a military partner/spouse 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 7 points below. If you have more than 7 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 7 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 was a co-sponsor of any of our bills from the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress (2021-2022), 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 under Advocate Training Resources: [www.resolve.org/advocacyday](http://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:
  - Access to Care for all Americans
  - 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 1 in 7 women have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy? I am personally affected as a patient/provider...*

- Millions of people who want to have children can't.
- Having children is fundamental to the lives of many Americans; 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ask them if they know anyone who has struggled to build their family.

- Share your story and how your family building struggles have impacted your life.

### 3. Access to Care for All Americans

**Assigned Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Our community is worried about our right to access medical treatment such as IVF, as we have seen some state legislatures try and pass laws that would limit or outlaw that access.*

- Since the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, there are states in the process of trying to restrict or ban IVF.
- What we ask is for a federal law enshrining access to IVF and infertility care which will ensure that everyone, regardless of location, maintains their right to build their chosen families and that healthcare providers are protected from penalization or criminalization from offering IVF care.

**SPECIFIC ASK:**

- Can we count on your boss to protect the rights of all Americans to build their family? If YES, ask if you can connect them with the Congressional staff working on legislation to protect access to IVF in the Senate.

### 4. 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, will require some limited coverage for family building medical care in 2024. We are very happy with this news, but there is more coverage that is needed. (For advocates: In Plan Year 2024, federal employees will have insurance coverage for IUI and for the medication used in an IVF cycle, but no coverage for the IVF medical treatment.)
- Only 14 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, ME, 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:**

- Can we count on Senator <NAME> to support providing the full range of insurance coverage 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 continue improving the benefits so that all federal employees can build their family? RESOLVE/ASRM can provide the Senator with talking points.
- 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.]

**5. Removing Barriers to Family Building for Military Families & Their Spouse/Partners to include all TRICARE beneficiaries**

**Assigned Speaker:** \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- TRICARE, the insurance carrier for the military, only provides coverage for fertility treatments for those service members with a service-connected injury or illness and they must use their own genetic materials (no donated sperm or egg).
- This leaves out many military families who suffer from the leading causes of infertility such as PCOS and endometriosis as well as their spouse/partner who are also TRICARE beneficiaries.
- 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. However, at this time it is not a covered option.
- Even adoption assistance is limited.
- Family building is already a challenge for military families without an infertility diagnosis due to frequent moves, deployments, and separations. For those with an infertility diagnosis the cost of treatments is exacerbated by issues already identified by Congress like out-of-pocket expenses for moves, food insecurity, and spouse unemployed or underemployed

- It doesn't seem fair that our Military and their families are not given equal access to care and the right to build their family with all they sacrifice for our country.
- RESOLVE & ASRM have strong relationships with military organizations and individuals and can be a resource to your office on this issue.
- Share Personal Story if an advocate is in the Military or a partner/spouse or has similar/relatable experiences.

## 6. Removing Barriers to Family Building for Veteran & Their Spouse/Partners

**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 and their spouses/partners.
- 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 making it hard for many to even utilize this access.
- We believe there should be support for Veterans and their spouses/partners 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 or has similar/relatable experiences.

### **SPECIFIC ASK:**

- Can we count on your boss to support removing barriers to family building for all of our military and veteran families? If YES, please share we have a number of bills on our Leave Behind document that we'd like him/her to co-sponsor when they are re-introduced.

## 7. 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 will send them our Leave Behind document if they don't already have it and tell them it lists our bills and issues.
- Ask them for a good contact email/number to follow up with them. Remind them that many of our bills have not yet been re-introduced and you'd like to reach out when they are so they can co-sponsor.
- 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 7 points below. If you have more than 7 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 House meetings to give the maximum number of advocates a chance to talk. If you have less than 7 advocates in your meeting, you will need to assign more than one talking point to each person.

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**SPECIFIC ASK:**

- Can we count on your boss to protect the rights of all Americans to build their family? If YES, ask if you can connect them with the Congressional staff working on legislation to protect access to IVF in the House of Representatives.

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