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November 13, 2023

Judiciary Committee
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate Chair Eldridge, House Chair Day, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association strongly supports An Act to Ensure Legal Parentage Equality, also known as the Massachusetts Parentage Act (H.1713/S.947). The MPA will comprehensively update parentage laws in the Commonwealth, ensuring that all children have equal access to the security of a legal parent-child relationship, regardless of the circumstances of the child's birth or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their parents. A child's parental relationship is the foundation of their healthy development and well-being over a lifetime, and Massachusetts law must respect and protect all children.

RESOLVE represents the millions of men and women in the United States with infertility, including more than 211,000 Massachusetts residents with infertility. The MPA is particularly critical because Massachusetts has the highest rate of births through assisted reproduction in the country, yet your statutes do not adequately protect all children born through assisted reproduction. We need comprehensive protections securing the relationship between intended parents and their children, and we need clarity that gamete donors are not parents. Massachusetts law lacks clear standards to protect all involved in the surrogacy process, including the intended parents, donors, and people acting as surrogates.

I hope that you will report the MPA (H.1713/S.947) favorably out of committee. 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.

Sincerely,

Barbara Collura
President/CEO