

## Understanding the “IVF Issue”

We hear a lot of politicians saying “I support IVF”.

But what does that mean?

RESOLVE, the leading voice on the issues breaks it down.

“Supporting IVF” means you want to see meaningful policies that address the threat to IVF at the state level and the need for comprehensive insurance coverage for IVF. These policies should be a positive step forward for the 1 in 6 people who face infertility and the many more who need medical treatments, like IVF, to build their family. We also need to make sure these policies the best standard of care delivered by healthcare providers, maintain the provider-and-patient relationship, and retain the patient’s rights over their reproductive health.

### Understanding the “IVF Issue”

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association is the leading national patient advocacy organization focused on protecting and increasing access to all family building options, including IVF. Since 1974, RESOLVE has provided free support programs to people in need and fought for legislation and policies that support the family building community. RESOLVE is a national, non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Visit [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org) to learn more.

### Why are we here?

In February 2024 the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that a frozen embryo outside the body was a child, this set into motion a flurry of events that ultimately caused the IVF clinics in Alabama to pause IVF medical treatments. While the state legislature did quickly pass a law that resulted in the clinics resuming IVF treatments, RESOLVE continues to work towards a more permanent solution in AL so that frozen embryos are not considered people. Because of this situation in Alabama, the threat to IVF availability is more real than ever before.

### What’s at stake?

Healthcare for infertility is at stake. 2 out of every 100 births in the U.S. is from IVF. This medical treatment is a chance at parenthood for so many.

### What should “supporting IVF” look like?

Let’s start with what support does NOT look like. Legislation or policies that call for IVF to be regulated through “health and safety measures” give RESOLVE reason for concern. We ask the question, “Will these new health and safety measures improve patient safety, improve outcomes, and make care more accessible?” If our assessment is that it will not and will instead create more restrictions on patients, then we oppose or do not support the legislation or policy. Policies that are generally positive are those that promote IVF as needed healthcare and that address the lack of insurance coverage for IVF. It’s not enough to just say you support IVF – you must ensure IVF is protected as well as take action on comprehensive health insurance; they go hand-in-hand.

### What are some misconceptions around IVF?

Addressing misconceptions about IVF is crucial for fostering understanding and support.

Clarify Success Rates: It’s important to know that while IVF is highly effective, success rates vary based on factors like age of the female, health history, and specific diagnoses. Also, IVF should be approached as a course of treatment, as it often takes more than one IVF cycle to have a live birth. Reviewing publicly available data provided by the CDC and SART is recommended to understand all the variables involved in reaching a live birth with IVF.

Debunk Myths About “Designer Babies”: Some people fear that IVF leads to “designer babies” or unethical genetic manipulation, where people are only using IVF to have a baby with a certain physical feature (like height or a specific eye color for example). Clarify that while IVF can involve genetic screening to prevent certain hereditary diseases, it is not used for creating babies that look a certain way. Ethical guidelines and regulations are in place to prevent misuse.

Highlight the Role of Medical Professionals: Emphasize that IVF care is delivered by a team of highly trained medical professionals who follow strict protocols and ethical standards. This can help build trust in the process and the people involved.

Scan for more information about IVF and the upcoming election  
or visit  
[resolve.org/supportIVF](http://resolve.org/supportIVF)



## How to Talk about IVF and the Upcoming Elections

For more talking points visit: [resolve.org/supportIVF](https://resolve.org/supportIVF)

### How do you talk about this issue?

**Highlight Personal Stories:** Share stories of individuals or families who have benefited from IVF. Personal anecdotes can humanize the issue and make it more relatable to voters.

**Focus on Accessibility and Affordability:** Emphasize the need for policies that make IVF more accessible and affordable for all. Don't call treatments "expensive". Talk about it being out of reach for many people because it is a medical treatment that is not covered by health insurance and people are forced to pay out-of-pocket to access needed medical care.

**Address Misconceptions:** Be prepared to dispel common myths and misconceptions about IVF. IVF is health care. It gives people a chance at parenthood.

**Promote Comprehensive Reproductive Health:** Frame IVF support within the broader context of reproductive health. Advocate for comprehensive healthcare policies that include IVF as part of a full spectrum of reproductive services for all people.

**Engage with Empathy and Respect:** Approach the conversation with empathy and respect for differing viewpoints. Acknowledge the complexities surrounding infertility and IVF and be open to listening to others' concerns and experiences.

### How can you help?

**Join RESOLVE's Advocacy Network (RAN):** This network works to raise our collective voice and bring real stories to lawmakers who need to hear from our community.

**Donate:** RESOLVE is at a critical moment and needs to grow our capabilities to meet these new challenges head on. We are a non-profit and rely on charitable support to deliver our mission.

**Who is RESOLVE?** We are the leading national patient advocacy organization focused on protecting and increasing access to all family building options, including IVF. Since 1974, RESOLVE has provided free support programs to people in need and fought for legislation and policies that support the family building community. RESOLVE is a national, non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization.



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