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March 16, 2021

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Senator Deb Patterson
Chair, Health Care Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 168 – SUPPORT

PRESIDENT/CEO

Barbara L. Collura

Dear Chairman Patterson and Members of the Health Care Committee:

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RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with the disease of infertility and the more than 116,000 Oregon residents who struggle to build a family in the state. We are pleased to support SB 168 and urge this Committee to favorably pass this bill out of Committee.

SB 168 updates the state's insurance law on reproductive health services to require insurance coverage for fertility and reproductive endocrinology services for men or women. This update will significantly improve access to the standard of care for patients with infertility and those diagnosed with cancer or other conditions that may cause infertility.

According to the CDC, one in eight individuals or couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, and all racial, ethnic and religious lines. Medical conditions such as endometriosis, ovulation disorders, premature ovarian failure and male factor are some causes of infertility. The American Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease. As such, infertility should be covered by health insurance like other diseases.

Family building options for this population are costly; the average cost of an in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle in the U.S. is approximately \$15,000. A recent survey found that women (25-34 years old) accrued \$30,000 of debt on average after undergoing fertility treatment. Such costs put fertility treatment out of reach for many. In fact, only one in four people get the treatment they need to overcome infertility.

Oregon should join the growing list of states that require fertility coverage. As proven in these states, insurance covering in vitro fertilization (IVF) decreases the chance of multiple births, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

We respectfully ask that you favorably pass SB 168 out of Committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all Oregonians struggling to build their families. 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 and our website is www.resolve.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Collura". The script is cursive and fluid, with a long, sweeping underline for the name.

Barbara L Collura
President/CEO