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March 30, 2023

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Senator Melissa Wiklund

Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: IVF Budget Provision - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wiklund:

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the more than 163,000 Minnesota residents struggling with this disease, plus thousands more who require medical intervention to build their families. Thank you for supporting adding the provisions of SF 1704 for in vitro fertilization (IVF) and fertility preservation insurance coverage in your HHS omnibus finance bill for large fully insured groups. This is an important and significant first step to assuring all Minnesotans have access to infertility care.

This pro-family provision 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 people 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 all 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 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.

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

On behalf of all Minnesotans struggling to build their families, we thank you for your support and leadership in supporting this important pro-family-building provision..

Sincerely,

Barbara Collura
President and CEO

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