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May 3, 2023

House Health Care Committee

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

#### RE: H.369 - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Houghton, Vice Chair McFaun, and Health Care committee members,

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association represents the millions of women and men in the U.S. with infertility and the more than 18,000 Vermont residents struggling with this disease, plus thousands more who require medical intervention to build their families. We are pleased to support H.369, "An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility-related services," and respectfully ask that the committee advance this bill next year. H.369 would require private health insurance plans and Vermont Medicaid to provide coverage for fertility care.

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 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.

Vermont 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 pass H.369 out of the committee and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all Vermont residents struggling to build their families.

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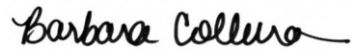
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We are happy to provide you additional information on this issue as RESOLVE has been providing support, information, and advocacy for the infertility community since 1974. I can be reached at [bcollura@resolve.org](mailto:bcollura@resolve.org) and our website is [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Collura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Collura  
President and CEO