



## ***Coalition to Help Families Struggling with Infertility***

Joint Letter to  
Members of the New York State Legislature

We represent a broad range of groups from across New York and are writing to urge the members of the New York State Legislature to enact pro-baby, pro-family-building, non-discriminatory legislation this year that provides much needed help to the one in eight couples in New York who are of childbearing age and can't have a baby because they cannot get pregnant or sustain a pregnancy. Over 12% of all New Yorkers that are of childbearing age suffer from the devastating disease of infertility.

Every legislative district in New York is impacted by infertility: families wishing to grow by having a baby, but trying and failing due to infertility.

Infertility is a disease of the reproductive system that affects men and women equally and is recognized as such by the medical community, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). In the years since New York passed requirements for insurers to cover basic fertility treatments, more effective 21<sup>st</sup> century medical treatments have been advanced and developed. As a result of these new, advanced treatments, a much larger number of families are experiencing the joy of parenthood.

These same advances have sharply reduced the number of pregnancies resulting in multiple births (twins, triplets or more). Reducing multiple births results in healthier babies and significantly lower costs. Indeed, according to one study, the national savings from fewer multiple births would be over \$6 billion a year, making it likely that New York state itself could potentially save tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars a year by providing IVF coverage.

Affected families know that successful fertility treatments can change a lifetime of major heartache into a lifetime of joy. As a legislator, you can help make this dream a reality for your constituents and their families. How? By granting access to these effective 21<sup>st</sup> century fertility medical treatments.

The problem for middle class and lower income families is that while these fertility treatments work extraordinarily well, they are often not covered by insurance, and the out-of-pocket costs for medical treatment makes them unaffordable for many. Here in New York state, insurance coverage has been on the books for years, but it is coverage that addresses old treatment - last century approaches from decades ago - and has not kept up with the times.

We urge the New York State Legislature to help our state's families by requiring health insurers to cover fertility medical treatments that are recommended by doctors based on the ages of the patients and the medical diagnosis.

New York's neighboring states of Connecticut and New Jersey, and other states ranging from Illinois to Hawaii, already provide insurance coverage for IVF. Studies in other states have shown that this coverage has impacted insurance costs by just a few dollars per member per month, or less. It is time for New York to come into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in order for our families - families in your district and throughout our state - to have access to proven, much needed help to grow their families and have a baby.

The need is there, the medical capacity to help is there. Please make it accessible by standing up for pro-family-building, pro-baby, non-discriminatory legislation to help New York families by making these modern, very effective fertility treatments affordable and accessible through required insurance coverage.

Respectfully and hopefully,



*The Coalition to Help Families Struggling with Infertility is supported by Ferring Pharmaceuticals to require health insurance coverage for fertility treatments and make them accessible for middle and low income families wanting to have baby and unable to do so without fertility treatments.*