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March 16, 2017

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 859 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Anderson and Committee Members:

I am the President of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association. Since 1974, RESOLVE has represented the millions of American women and men struggling with infertility. We also speak on behalf of the more than 82,000 Oregon residents who are suffering from this disease in some capacity.

Today, we write to laud SB 859, which would require oncology specialists operating in the State of Oregon to discuss infertility risks with adolescent patients who are receiving cancer treatment. The varying types of cancer treatments can have a myriad of effects on a patient's fertility, including the destruction of eggs or sperm, uterine scarring, or ovarian complications. As such, it is vital that young women and men are made aware of the risks pertaining to cancer treatment so that they may unequivocally explore fertility preservation options. We applaud the Oregon legislature for recognizing the need for physicians to proactively communicate the infertility risks to adolescent women and men receiving cancer treatments.

For women and men battling cancer, it is important that they are armed with the wealth of information surrounding their diagnosis, and how to best address any complications as a result of their treatment. The loss of ovarian function or the destruction of eggs or sperm is a direct by-product of common cancer treatments.

As such, individuals should not have the extra burden of learning about the medical procedures to preserve their fertility for their future attempts at parenthood after it is too late. We support SB859, and urge the Committee to favorably report this bill.

Thank you for providing Oregon residents with the ability to explore parenthood despite a cancer diagnosis.

Sincerely,

Barbara Collura
President/CEO