



## House of Representatives Meetings in a Nutshell, Advocacy Day 2017

### INTRODUCTION

1. “Thank you for meeting with us today. We are volunteers for **RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association.**” Introduce yourselves: name and where you are from.
2. Build a bridge: Say you have looked at this lawmaker’s background and s/he has done some very pro-family things (name some). **WE are pro-family, too!**
3. You have 3 pro-family issues to talk about today.
  - a. Support for a bill to help wounded veterans have a family
  - b. Support for the Adoption Tax Credit
  - c. Ensure Personhood bills do not pass

### BILLS:

#### Women Veterans & Families Health Services Act (HR 1681)

1. Veterans who are stricken with infertility as a result of a service-related injury do not have access to needed medical care and services to enable them to build their families.
2. This bill allows the VA to offer them increased benefits, including IVF and adoption assistance. Many Vets groups like Paralyzed Veterans of America support this bill.
3. **Additional Details:**
  - a. This bill matters to our state. According to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, as of 2014 we had approximately \_\_\_\_\_ Veterans in our state.
  - b. Blast injuries are a major source of the loss of fertility. DoD data show that from 2003 – 2011, nearly 2,000 women and men suffered these life-changing battle injuries while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.
  - c. Our Veterans are young and many desire to be parents. Their service-related injuries to reproductive function should be treated just like any other injury.

#### The Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2017 (HR [REDACTED])

1. We know Congress and the President have made tax reform a priority. I want to express my support for the Adoption Tax Credit, and how this is one of the most pro-family policies of our government. It actually saves money, as it helps families adopt children, especially out of foster care, which lowers costs by moving children into permanent homes and families.
2. The Adoption Tax Credit (ATC) was made permanent in 2013, but was not made refundable as it had been in prior years (2010 & 2011). Refundability is important because it allows those who have lower financial resources to get the benefit of the credit so they can afford to adopt a child in need.
3. This bill restores refundability so that the families who need the credit the most will receive it.

We also ask that the ATC be preserved if Congress takes on tax reform.

**4. Additional Details:**

- a) Refundability would help the 46% of families who adopt in the foster care system who are at or below 200% of the poverty level and may not have a tax liability that allows them to use the credit right away.
- b) According to HHS, as of mid-2013, we had \_\_\_\_\_ children in foster care in our state, so this will really help. A large coalition of adoption groups supports this bill.

**Personhood Bills, HR 586 and HR 681**

- 1. HR 586 and HR 681 are bills that we deem as “Personhood” bills. These bills would grant rights of a living Person to a microscopic human embryo.
- 2. You may not even know this but Personhood bills pose a significant risk to patients who need IVF, as many of the medically necessary procedures that are done in a fertility clinic lab may be in violation of a Personhood law.
- 3. We are here to help educate you and express our concern about the passage of Personhood bills and hope you will reach out to the infertility community and medical professionals to learn more about the harmful effects of Personhood on the infertility community.

**Disease of Infertility**

- 1. Millions of American men and women who want to have children can't. 1 in 8 couples have trouble conceiving or carrying a pregnancy to term.
- 2. Having children is fundamental; it's part of one's identity. Being unable to have a child affects people physically, financially, and emotionally.
- 3. Let me tell you about infertility in our state:  
Number of infertile constituents \_\_\_\_\_  
Infertility is excluded from insurance coverage in most states.
- 4. There is much more we could do to support people trying to build families. In fact, the U.S. lags behind most developed countries in access to treatments for infertility. We'd like you to get behind it because it's a very **pro-family issue!**
- 5. *OPTIONAL*: Share your story.

**MAKE “THE ASK”**: Can we count on you as follows?

- To co-sponsor the IVF for Veterans Bill.
- To co-sponsor the ATC Refundability Act of 2017.
- To support retaining the Adoption Tax Credit during tax reform.
- To ensure Personhood bills do not pass.

Thank you, again. **Ask for their business cards. Leave the following documents with the office: RESOLVE Leave-Behind Sheet; ATC document; Constituent Letters.**

And tell them you will follow up with them soon!