

April 15, 2013

The Honorable Diane Black
1531 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Danny Davis
2159 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Black and Congressman Davis,

We write to you today as groups concerned about the disproportionate impact of infertility as a result of the lack of insurance coverage and significant out of pocket expenses. We represent a broad cross-section of Americans—cancer survivors, fertility patients, physicians, and medical organizations—dedicated to the treatment and cure of this disease.

We urge you in the strongest terms to consider the Family Act, a bill that would use the tax code to help couples build families, as you undertake the very difficult task of reforming our tax system. We believe the working group you lead, Education and Family Benefits, is the ideal venue to consider this helpful policy.

The disease of infertility affects more than 7 million Americans, and in the majority of instances it is not covered by health insurance. As a result, the treatment costs can pose significant financial burden on couples.

There is a solution to this crisis that we believe should be considered: the Family Act, introduced as H.R. 3522 in the 112th Congress. This bill would create a limited tax credit for middle-income families to help them defray the cost of infertility treatments. This credit, modeled after the Adoption Tax Credit, would require a 50 percent cost share by the beneficiary and would be targeted to those that need it most. This narrow tailoring will make an enormous difference in the lives of so many families. Employers currently benefit from providing their employees with health insurance; and many taxpayers also benefit by deducting their medical services. But most of the millions of couples who suffer from infertility have no tax benefits available—that must change.

While we support this bill for a diverse set of parochial reasons, we all agree that money should never be the primary factor in the decision of how and whether to have a family.

While our constituencies face the harsh impacts of this disease every day, we hope that you will work with us to find a way to help these patients, from traditional families struggling with infertility, cancer patients trying to preserve their fertility, and military families who cannot get adequate treatment, to access and afford services that would otherwise be out of reach.

We hope you will stand with these patients as they face the daunting dual challenge of both managing the emotional strain of this disease and also finding a way to pay for the necessary treatment. This legislation can help couple reach their goal of building a family and overcome their battle with infertility.

Sincerely,

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network
Livestrong
National Hispanic Medical Association
Black Women’s Health Imperative
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

cc: The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable Sander Levin