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Legislative Commission on Surrogacy

72 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

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Good afternoon. My name is Julie Berman and I live in Minnetonka, Minnesota. I am testifying today on behalf of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association. RESOLVE, which was founded in 1974, is the only established, nationwide network mandated to promote reproductive health and to ensure equal access to all family building options for men and women experiencing infertility or other reproductive disorders.

In the United States, infertility affects about 7.3 million women and their partners, or about 12 percent of the reproductive-age population. This means that over 100,000 households in Minnesota are dealing with infertility. You probably know some of these families and hundreds or even thousands of them live in your legislative districts. RESOLVE addresses this public health issue by providing community to these women and men, connecting them with others who can help, empowering them to find resolution and giving voice to their demands for access to all family building options.

RESOLVE works closely with medical providers, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, known as ACOG, and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, known as ASRM. ACOG is comprised of the nation's 57,000 ob-gyns and is the leading women's health organization in the country. ASRM represents America's reproductive health professionals and has 8,000 members including obstetrician/gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals, internists, nurses, practice administrators, laboratory technicians, pediatricians and research scientists. About 1% of all births in the US are a result of assisted reproductive technologies, including gestational carrier surrogacy, and we are grateful for the medical professionals that make these births possible.

RESOLVE believes there is a need for oversight of gestational carrier surrogacy. Right now professional guidelines exist for the best practice of gestational carrier surrogacy arrangements from the medical, legal, and mental health perspective. However, these guidelines are not uniformly followed, and this can hurt the gestational carriers, the intended parents, and the resulting children. We want these guidelines to be followed each and every time, and oftentimes the best way to ensure that happens is for these guidelines to become state law. Our goal is simple and transparent – we want

Minnesotans to have access to all family building options and we want to make sure that all professional guidelines and standards of care are followed each and every time. We don't want to see access denied or even narrowed, but if we can make the process better for everyone, that is our goal.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Berman

Chair, Board of Directors

RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association