

BY: M. of A. Joyner

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 24-30, 2022, as Infertility Awareness Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York takes great pride in recognizing official weeks established to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of all New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 24-30, 2022, as Infertility Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Infertility Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1989, by RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, National Infertility Week empowers individuals to change the conversation about infertility; and

WHEREAS, According to the CDC, 15% of couples in America experience infertility; infertility does not discriminate based on race, religion, sexuality or economic status; and

WHEREAS, In the past, infertility was commonly considered to be solely a female problem; it is now recognized that a couple's infertility is just as likely to stem from problems in the male partner; and

WHEREAS, After couples with infertility undergo testing, about 40% of the cases are found to stem from female factors and another 40% from male factors; in 10% of couples, infertility factors are found in both the man and woman; and

WHEREAS, About 6% of married women aged 15-44 years in the United States are unable to get pregnant after one year of trying; about 12% of women aged 15-44 years in the United States have difficulty getting pregnant or carrying a pregnancy to term; and

WHEREAS, Infertility may be caused by a myriad of factors including genetic abnormalities, aging, acute and chronic diseases, treatments for certain conditions, behavioral factors, and exposure to environmental, occupational, and infectious agents; and

WHEREAS, Infertility can be treated with medicine, surgery, intrauterine insemination, or assisted reproductive technology; doctors recommend specific treatments for infertility on the basis of the factors contributing to the infertility; the duration of the infertility; the age of the woman; and the couple's treatment preference after counseling about success rates, risks, and benefits of each treatment option; and

WHEREAS, Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) includes all

fertility treatments in which both eggs and embryos are handled outside of the body; in general, ART procedures involve removing mature eggs from a woman's ovaries using a needle, combining the eggs with sperm in the laboratory, and returning the embryos to the woman's body or donating them to another woman; the main type of ART is in vitro fertilization (IVF); and

WHEREAS, Infertility is much more than just a medical condition; for many people, hearing about a possible infertility diagnosis is overwhelming; infertility can deplete your finances, affect your personal relationships and have an impact on you or your partner's emotional health; and

WHEREAS, Since the desire to have one's own biological children can be strong and compelling, the effects of infertility for individuals or couples who are unable to conceive can be devastating; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 24-30, 2022, as Infertility Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.