

Resolution Urging Amendment of Hawaii's IVF Insurance Statutes to Provide Equal Access to IVF Coverage

Whereas, Thousands of same-sex couples in Hawaii are now married since the passage of the Marriage Equality Act in 2013 and same-sex couples are increasingly using reproductive technologies like in vitro fertilization (IVF) to have children; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes that IVF is expensive, averaging \$10,000-15,000 per cycle, or about 50% of average annual disposable income in the U.S.; and Sections 431:10A-116.5 and 432:1-604, Hawaii Revised Statutes, require insurers who cover pregnancy-related benefits to also provide a one-time benefit for expenses arising from in-vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i understands that this mandate currently only applies to women whose oocytes are fertilized with their husbands' sperm in circumstances where the couple has a history of infertility or infertility associated with certain medical conditions; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes the statutes, as written, exclude same sex couples; and some insurers offer policies that cover same-sex female couples but impose burdens not faced by opposite-sex couples by requiring them to first try intrauterine insemination (IUI), even if that procedure is not covered; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes Hawai'i insurers exclude same-sex male couples as they do not cover procedures involving donor oocytes and/or surrogates, as well as individuals that have undergone gender reassignment surgery; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that this constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i recognizes such discrimination is inconsistent with the Marriage Equality Act, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, and the core values of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i as expressed in its Platform; and be it

Resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges the Hawai'i state legislature to amend Hawaii's IVF insurance laws to require equal coverage for same-sex couples, including same-sex male couples, and transgendered individuals; and finally be it

Ordered, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and all members of the Hawai'i State Legislatures who are members of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i.

Passed by the Democratic Party of Hawai'i on December 3, 2016