



June 22, 2022

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Health, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
164 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Brownley,

Thank you for the invitation to submit a statement for the record in support of H.R. 1957, the Veterans Infertility Treatment Act. This bill would allow the Veterans Health Administration to offer access to infertility medical treatments such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) to enrolled veterans and their partners. It would also offer access to fertility preservation medical care to those who need to preserve sperm, eggs, or embryos before undergoing medical care that may harm their future fertility.

SGF is a leading fertility and IVF center of excellence with more than 100,000 babies born from 30+ years of continuous innovation and patient-centered fertility care. With 46 locations, including CO, FL, GA, MD, NY, PA, TX, VA, and DC. SGF is among the founding partner practices of [US Fertility](#), the largest physician-led partnership of top-tier fertility practices in the U.S.

Shady Grove Fertility is in support of H.R. 1957 as we see firsthand veterans who need our care but cannot access it through the VHA, despite being an enrolled veteran. They are paying out-of-pocket for care that should be part of their health care benefit. The current benefit offered to veterans is very narrow and most veterans who need our care do not meet the strict criteria. For example, veterans who need donor sperm or donor egg cannot use the VHA benefit, even if they have a service-connected injury that caused their infertility. H.R. 1957 would cover all causes of infertility and is more in line with a standard benefit for infertility.

There are many causes of infertility, including disorders of ovulation, physical barriers, such as damaged fallopian tubes, sperm abnormalities and genetic changes. At least 1 in 8 people will experience infertility.

We further support H.R. 345 providing counseling for veterans considering abortion for an unintended pregnancy. Without such counseling, out veterans cannot make informed decisions.

Today, if a veteran needs access to our care, they either pay out-of-pocket, forgo the care altogether, or apply for grants from non-profit organizations such as the Bob Woodruff Foundation. The healthcare that our veterans receive should not exclude life-affirming care that helps our veterans build their family. We urge Congress to pass H.R. 1957 so that veterans can access all the medical care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

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