CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

CHRIST CENTERED CARE

October 2025 Newsletter

President's Column

"Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Trump administration recently announced new policies pursuant to President Trump's executive order in February of this year, titled *Expanding Access to In Vitro Fertilization*, which I commented on in March. The original intention was to "provide support, awareness, and access to affordable fertility treatments to help families navigate their path to parenthood with hope and confidence," and the focus was on expanding access to IVF.

The good news is that during the process of policy development, consultation with proponents of restorative reproductive medicine (RRM) resulted in expanding the focus to include support and access to the full spectrum of treatments available for infertility, and not IVF alone.

In the subsection, *Taking Novel Action to Unleash Innovation and Expand Coverage,* the policy establishes "the creation of a New Benefit Option for fertility benefits… These benefit packages can address the continuum of fertility-related services, from those that address the root causes of infertility to IVF." This is clearly a reference to RRM, whose goal is to restore natural reproductive health when possible by identifying and treating the root cause of infertility, thereby improving the likelihood of achieving pregnancy while

respecting the natural order of procreation as designed by God (see Genesis 1:28).

Additionally, we can be grateful – again, I suspect, as a direct result of the administration's consultation with pro-life medical professionals and others who reject IVF on ethical grounds – there are no federal mandates to include IVF in medical insurance plans, nor does it appear the directives violate religious liberty or conscience rights.

The response of the USCCB to this policy announcement expresses the Catholic objection to IVF and support for the ethical care of the infertile couple.

> Every human life, born and preborn, is sacred and loved by God. Without diminishing the dignity of people born through IVF, we must recognize that children have a right to be born of a natural and exclusive act of married love, rather than a business's technological intervention. And harmful government action to expand access to IVF must not also push people of faith to be complicit in its evils… Though we are grateful that aspects of the Administration's policies announced Thursday intend to include comprehensive and holistic restorative reproductive medicine, which can help ethically to address infertility and its underlying causes, we strongly reject the promotion of procedures like IVF that instead freeze or destroy precious human beings and treat them like property.

The response of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AAPLOG), a nonsectarian medical professional organization whose values include "practicing medicine in the Hippocratic tradition… promoting health and healing and never taking the life of a patient," aligned closely with our own concerns and hopes that this new policy will lead to improved access to effective, ethical fertility care.

> AAPLOG is heartened by this renewed interest in addressing infertility and helping build strong families across our country. As OB/GYNs and women's healthcare professionals, we know well the heartbreak experienced by families who struggle with infertility. However, it's important to recognize that IVF does not treat the causes of infertility but rather attempts to circumvent them, which in some circumstances can lead to the exploitation and loss of human life… we encourage first line therapies like restorative reproductive medicine (RRM) that not only address and treat root causes of infertility but also avoid the

intentional loss of human life. We also support the conscience rights of any medical professional or employer that does not desire to participate in interventions that could cause loss of life. Our hope is that elected officials, policymakers and the medical professional community will continue to pursue knowledge and expertise in approaches that both respect life and improve the health of all patients.

While we strongly object to promoting and expanding access to IVF on both medical and moral grounds, this new policy does provide an opportunity to increase awareness and access to the effective and ethical alternative. Education is a key component for increasing awareness, and the USCCB provides valuable resources on reproductive technology and infertility. The International Institute for Restorative Reproductive Medicine provides additional medical information and directories of restorative reproductive medicine practitioners.

God Bless,
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President, CHCLA