



May 22, 2026

New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie, Majority Leader Peoples-Stokes, Minority Leader Ra, and Honorable Members of the New York State Assembly,

On behalf of the New York cystic fibrosis (CF) community, and as members of the broader CF community, we write in strong support of Assembly Bill 885/Senate Bill 8866- The Equity in Fertility Treatment Act. This bill would expand infertility coverage for three full cycles of in vitro fertilization (IVF) for anyone who needs medical assistance to build their family, including people living with CF.

Cystic fibrosis is a life-limiting genetic condition that primarily affects the respiratory, digestive, and reproductive systems, and CF affects over 1,700 New Yorkers. The Boomer Esiason Foundation raises funds, awareness, and support for the CF community.

About 98% of men living with CF are infertile, but not sterile, due to congenital bilateral absence of the vas deferens (CBAVD). Men living with CF and CBAVD can have biological children, but only with a sperm extraction procedure followed by in vitro fertilization. Women living with CF also face fertility challenges due to thickened cervical mucus and irregular ovulation because of nutritional deficiencies and how CF affects the reproductive tract.

Many men and women living with CF are living longer, healthier lives due to breakthrough treatments, and now find themselves ready to build families of their own. However, these novel treatments do not address CBAVD in men and some women may still experience infertility related to CF. The cost of IVF without insurance coverage can be prohibitive on top of the cost of CF medical care, and many couples find themselves finally healthy enough to start a family, but without means to do so.

Since 2023, BEF has provided financial assistance to couples living with CF to pursue IVF, and that program has helped 22 couples welcome babies into the world. We have seen firsthand the profound joy and gratitude of these couples when they welcome their child into the world, and we want to ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to build the families of their dreams.

Mandating insurance coverage of IVF for people who require medical assistance to build their families, like people living with cystic fibrosis, will help couples to surmount the financial challenges of IVF and bring to life dreams that only 10 years ago seemed impossible. We urge you to pass The Equity in Fertility Treatment Act to ensure that every person who needs medical assistance to build their families has the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,
The Boomer Esiason Foundation