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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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**DIFRANCESCO SIGNS LAW TO PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF
INFERTILITY**

Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco today signed legislation requiring health insurers to provide coverage for medically necessary expenses incurred in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility. The law applies to health insurers including hospital service corporations, commercial insurers and health maintenance organizations that cover groups with 50 or more persons.

"As a father of three, I know firsthand the joys of looking into your newborn child's eyes for the first time. But not all New Jersey couples will get to experience that priceless moment because they are struggling with infertility. This new law will offer those couples a better chance of having a baby. A better chance of realizing a dream many of us take for granted - the dream of becoming a parent." said DiFrancesco.

The law aims to balance the potential expense of the mandated coverage by offering insurance companies certain coverage options. Health insurers may require that patients initially use all reasonable, less expensive and medically- approved treatments before using more expensive procedures such as egg retrieval. Additionally, insurance companies may limit certain expensive procedures such as egg retrievals to four times.

"Money is a make-or-break issue for people dealing with infertility and we are addressing that issue. Of course, money is a bottom-line concern for insurance companies paying for treatment. This legislation enables insurers to put some limits on coverage. This bill balances the needs of New Jerseyans struggling with infertility and health insurers concerned with bottom-line expenses," said the acting Governor.

"Time and accountants may enable us to measure the ultimate economic benefit of this legislation but the human benefit may be beyond measure. This bill gives hope to couples who may have lost hope," said DiFrancesco.

S-1076/A-1862 was sponsored by Senators Robert Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Dianne Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Assemblymen Richard Bagger (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset) and Neil Cohen (D-Union).