Podcast Proposal: Fighting for Families

Executive Summary

Fighting for Families is a narrative podcast dedicated to amplifying the voices of active-duty service members, veterans, and military families who have faced the profound challenge of family building while serving their country. Through personal storytelling, expert interviews, and policy advocacy, the show will expose the barriers they face, with the goal of serving as a rallying point for legislative change. This show will also highlight the journey the authors, who are busy front-line fertility physicians, take to bring these stories to light- one of which served 24 years in uniform and the other who is beginning his career in military medicine. They will share their lessons learned as they both navigate the complex world of advocacy in modern times.

Episodes

- No village: This episode will include long-form, personal interviews with military families sharing their family building journeys. The episode will center the human experience: the hope, the heartbreak, the financial sacrifice, and ultimately, the perseverance. Each story will be told with care and dignity.
- What Congress gets that you don't: In this episode, we will compare TRICARE coverage to FEHB, breaking down what Congress receives, what servicemembers don't, and why.
- The doctor will see you…eventually: This episode will highlight the access issues that persist at military treatment facilities. We will see how the failure to build large reproductive endocrinology practices precludes physicians from being able to provide timely, comprehensive care to their patients. We will hear stories of VIP patients cutting the waitlist and getting seen in days, where others are left on the waitlist for months.
- Boots on the ground: This episode will highlight legislative efforts to expand IVF coverage for the military, featuring lawmakers, lobbyists, and advocacy organizations. We will end by making clear calls to action for listeners.

Why This Podcast, Why Now

The national conversation around reproductive healthcare has never been louder. At the same time, awareness of the specific burdens carried by military families has grown, but the intersection of these two issues remains largely untold. Additionally, storytelling has been largely omitted from conversations about providing IVF coverage for patients in the military. This podcast aims to fill these gaps.

Legislative momentum is building. Bills have been introduced in recent congressional sessions to expand IVF access for service members. Public support for IVF coverage is strong across party lines. Military families are speaking up. This podcast gives their voices a platform and creates a durable, searchable, shareable record of their stories that can support advocacy efforts for years to come.