

In Support of LD 258

"An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"

Dear Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Bailey and Representative Perry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

I have been the Executive Director of Resolve New England since January 2015. Resolve New England (RNE) is a non-profit organization that provides emotional support, education and advocacy for ALL those in New England that are struggling with fertility and family building.

We are so grateful to the 130th legislature for passing LD 1539, *An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care*, and to Governor Mills for signing it into law and her continuous support. The law, which will take effect on January 1, 2024, will ensure that many more Mainers will have access to fertility coverage so that they are able to try to grow much wanted families in Maine. When the bill was approved, one of the patient advocates said, "I feel hopeful for the first time in a long time."

I am testifying today in support of the \$3.8 million appropriation in Section Z373 of LD 258 to cover any potential cost of implementing this fertility care coverage, so that the hope created by passage of this law can be realized.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of this part of the state budget. RNE looks forward to assisting in any way that we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Kate Weldon LeBlanc

Kate Weldon LeBlanc
Executive Director