

May 4, 2021

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Heather Sanborn, Representative Denise Tepler, and members of the HCIFS Committee,

I strongly support LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care and ask that you vote "ought to pass". This bill would provide coverage for fertility diagnostic care, fertility treatment, and medically necessary fertility preservation.

We have personally been impacted by infertility. As otherwise healthy 30-something-year-olds, we spent years trying to conceive. When we were recommended to get more specialized help, we had no idea what we were getting into and how emotionally and financially draining it would be.

For just one round of treatment, we spent close to \$18,000 out-of-pocket. We were lucky to have success in that first round, most are not. Many spend much more. We were fortunate to have this cash in savings, most are not. The money we used for this treatment would otherwise have gone toward ensuring our child's future.

Why is this health issue that affects so many men and women among the few not covered by insurance? It is not a choice – we would prefer not to have to go down this path. It is a medical necessary. This is not a women's issue; it is a family issue that affects us all. The treatment works, and research supports it.

We are currently four months pregnant with our first child. We are thankful to Boston IVF in South Portland and the services we received there. Thank you for your time and consideration to provide access to fertility care for many individuals and couples who rely on fertility treatments to build their families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer & Michael Boutin

Brunswick, Maine

Jennifer Boutin
Brunswick

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