



Stacy Brenner  
Senator, District 30

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
130th Legislature

388 Broadturn Road  
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**Testimony in support of LD 1539, “An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care”**  
**Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**  
**May 5, 2021**

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and honorable colleagues of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I am Senator Stacy Brenner and I represent Senate District 30, which includes Gorham, most of Scarborough and part of Buxton.

As a co-sponsor of LD 1539, “An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care”, and a nurse-midwife, I am pleased to testify before you today in support of the bill. It will provide private health insurance coverage for fertility treatment and for fertility preservation. Having held the hand of devastated women as they struggle to decide their course forward through infertility when insurance coverage is not available is a double dose of despair. As a legislature, we have the capacity to help with the insurance coverage component by passing LD 1539.

Data shows that 1 out of every 6 couples experience infertility. So, chances are you know someone who has been personally impacted. I certainly do. And maybe it is even you or a member of your own family. I think all of us are familiar with fertility treatment, including but not limited to IVF.

You may be less familiar with fertility preservation, which are medical procedures that enable people to protect their future ability to become a parent when they are facing a medical condition and/or a medical treatment that is known to impair fertility, directly or indirectly.

However, the coverage in this bill does not include so-called “elective” or “social” fertility preservation.

I signed on to LD 1539 because we want Mainers to have access to high quality fertility care in order to try to achieve their dream of a healthy baby. We want this care to be guided by the patient and provider working together to make decisions based on clinical best practices. When individuals and couples do not have insurance coverage for fertility care, these choices are clouded by financial concerns. Their decisions about whether to even try to grow their family, or *how* they will grow their family, is often made based on what they can afford, not other factors.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Chair  
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

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I ask that the committee vote that LD 1539 “ought to pass” and support family building in Maine. Thank you.