

COLAGE

May 5, 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,

As Executive Director of COLAGE, a national nonprofit dedicated to the children of LGBTQ+ families, I am testifying in support of LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care.

For thirty years, COLAGE has been the only national organization expressly dedicated to supporting people with one or more LGBTQ+ caregivers and uniting them with a network of peers. We support them as they nurture and empower each other to be skilled, self-confident, and just leaders in their communities. We are committed to bringing about a world where children of LGBTQ+ parents are legally secure, respected and valued for who they are.

COLAGE is grateful that LD 1539 is written in an inclusive way, which will improve access to fertility care for LGBTQ+ individuals and couples who seek fertility treatment to try to become parents. For many prospective LGBTQ+ parents, access to fertility treatments is a significant factor in determining where to live and begin building their families. [According to a survey conducted by Family Equality in 2019](#), roughly 63% of LGBTQ+ millennials expect to use assisted reproductive technology when expanding their families, making the implementation of LD 1539 an imperative for future LGBTQ+ families in Maine.

Thank you reviewing my letter and considering this very important piece of legislation. I ask that you vote for LD 1539 to pass.

Sincerely,

Jordan Budd
Executive Director, COLAGE

