

May 3, 2021

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

Re: LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care

Dear HCIFS Committee,

I strongly support An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care. I personally have struggled for the last 26th months with infertility. My husband and I have been trying to get pregnant for over two years. We both have good jobs in Maine, he works for Bigelow Labs in Boothbay Harbor doing biology research to find more sustainable energy sources using algae, I work for Maine General as a nurse practitioner in the wound clinic full time as well as part time for the geriatrics department and part time with Beacon Hospice also in Augusta. I work so many jobs as I am trying to fund a cycle of IVF as neither of the companies that we work for provide infertility coverage on our insurance plans. We thought making a baby would be easy when we started trying, and we were so wrong.

We have personally financed testing and treatment at Boston IVF in Portland for three unsuccessful cycles of IUI (intrauterine insemination) which costs \$1500 a cycle as well as countless blood and other testing. We have financed it all ourselves. Our last remaining option to be parents of our own biological children is IVF. We have unexplained infertility, meaning that while no one can find anything medically abnormal that would prevent us from getting pregnant, we have not been successful in all our months of trying. We are both healthy and financially stable. We desperately want a baby of our own and want the chance to be parents. The cost of a cycle of IVF in the state is about \$35,000 without insurance which, while we could possibly qualify for and take out a loan, puts us into financial hardship once we do have a child. Our options are so limited due to finances as insurance has so far covered none of our cycles or testing. We have thought about moving to another state in New England as IVF is covered under insurance in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In fact, we know people who have made this choice, but we are Mainers first and foremost. My family has been in Maine for fifteen generations. Our families are here, we own a home here, we want to have a baby in the state we love surrounded by the people we love. Having insurance coverage for infertility would be life-changing for families like mine.

Please consider joining the other states in New England and covering infertility treatment. It would mean my family and families like mine would be able to have a family in a state we all love. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Margaret Chapin

Farmingdale