

May 4, 2021

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

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

My husband and I live in Bangor. We are in full support of LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care. We have infertility but are one of the fortunate ones where IVF worked for us. Fertility help is such a journey.

My husband had an inguinal hernia and one undescended as a child. In the 80's they would treat it before the age of 8 where in today's modern medicine, surgery is performed before age 2. By treating before age 2, there is less of a chance of infertility issues such as low sperm count and how they look and move.

Our journey started in 2016. I saw a gynecologist who ordered lab work and a hysterosalpingogram. My husband saw a urologist who said we had an 8% chance of getting pregnant naturally in 10 years because of his sperm. He recommended IVF because doing IUI would be a waste of our money and time.

In Spring 2017 we did an egg retrieval with ICSI and a fresh transfer. I was devastated when it didn't work. After two other unsuccessful frozen transfers, we were out of embryos and back at square one. Talk about emotional. I had always dreamed of experiencing pregnancy and at this point wasn't sure if that would be an option. We had already spent at least \$22,000 and had no baby to show for it. After meeting with the embryologist, he suggested we do genetic testing (PGS) to make sure they are normal embryos before transferring. PGS was new to us, and of course extra money.

In Fall 2018 we did our second egg retrieval with two fresh embryo transfers which resulted in a loss, called a chemical pregnancy. The good news with the PGS was we had 4 normal embryos frozen which gave us a 60% chance of a baby vs the 30% chance without the PGS. Our embryo was transferred in January 2019, and our son Oliver made his debut that September. We recently did another transfer and a baby girl is coming this November 2021. It has been such an emotional, expensive (we have spent at least 50k) journey. Without my faith and family, I never would have made it through everything.

Thank you for reviewing my letter. Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 1539.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Fitzpatrick