

Lisa Hopper  
Portland  
LD 1539  
February 7, 2022

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

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

Dear Senator Heather Sanborn, Representative Denise Tepler, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,  
I am writing to express my strong support for LD 1539, "An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care" as amended. Health insurance policies in Maine should provide coverage for fertility diagnostic care, fertility treatment for fertility patients, and medically necessary fertility preservation.

I understand that the committee has received a rate study report for LD 1539. Given this, I wanted to focus on the economic aspects of this issue from my perspective. My husband and I are both carriers for cystic fibrosis. Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that effects all the mucous producing organs in the body but mainly the lungs and pancreas. Children with cystic fibrosis take over 20 pills a day and spend hours using air way clearance devices to help them breathe. When my husband and I found out we were carriers we decided to look into IVF. When we discovered the cost it was something unattainable for the both of us. We simply could not afford it and could not put our family into deeper debt trying; after all, you enter adulthood with debt from college and buying a house. This was not a cost we had planned for. Building a family should not burn a hole in your pocket that can never be patched.

In December 2020 our son Franky was born with cystic fibrosis. Franky goes to the doctor once a month and is on multiple medications. He has a machine which costs thousands of dollars to break up mucous in his lungs. All of these medications, doctors appointments and machines are covered by insurance. Franky will be on my insurance until he can be on his own as an adult. The insurance will end up covering hundreds of thousands of dollars, more than one round of IVF would have cost.

The surrounding states allow for insurance to cover IVF. If this bill does not pass we will be uprooting our family and moving out of Maine for this benefit much like hundreds of young Maine families have already done. This state is one of the oldest states in the US. It needs to keep young working families here. By passing this, it is one step closer.

Thank you for reviewing my letter.

Sincerely,

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