



May 5, 2021

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

Dear Senate Chair Sanborn, House Chair Tepler, and members of the HCIFS Committee,

My name is Katie Kraschel. I am the Executive Director of the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy, a Lecturer in Law, and a Clinical Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School. I am writing today to express my strong support for LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care. My work focuses on health care and specifically on reproduction and health care's intersections with gender.

I have written book chapters, articles, and commentary in leading medical journals on reproduction, health, and gender. One of my recent projects was co-authoring an article related to fertility insurance laws across the country, with a focus on the many gaps in access to fertility care. Part of my role at Yale is co-leading our Reproductive Rights and Justice Project Clinic. This provides me with the opportunity to collaborate with national partners as well as New England organizations on real world legal issues. Given that this is an area of professional and personal interest, I was pleased to be involved in the drafting of LD 1539 with other advocacy partners. We utilized knowledge and experiences from other bills in the nation in order to develop thoughtful, inclusive legislation for Maine.

In addition, I was recently a fertility patient. Thankfully, my wife and I welcomed our son in March. Like many members of the LGBTQ community, I had to fight for my insurance company to cover my care because I was not diagnosed "infertile," rather, I needed to access fertility care because my wife and I are cisgender women. One of the many reasons I so strongly support LD1539 is because it facilitates access for all types of families. If adopted, Mainers should be proud that their insurance mandate provides access for members of their LGBTQ community.

I appreciate your review of my written testimony and respectfully urge the committee to vote that LD 1539 "ought to pass".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Kraschel". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Katherine L. Kraschel, JD