

May 5, 2021

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

I have been the Executive Director of Resolve New England since January 2015. Resolve New England (RNE) is a non-profit organization that provides emotional support, education and advocacy for ALL those in New England that are struggling with fertility and family building. RNE is a strong supporter of LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care.

We want more Maine residents to have access to fertility treatment so that they can be able to try to grow their families in Maine. Currently 19 states across the country have fertility insurance laws, including all the New England states except for Maine and Vermont. The bill in New Hampshire passed in 2019 with strong bipartisan support.

Typically, the concern raised about bills like this is one of cost. I would argue that Maine is already paying for the *lack* of this coverage. Many individuals and couples in the state are going deeply in debt to try to make their dreams of parenthood come true. This is making them put off other investments, like saving for a home or retirement. This is making them consider moving to neighboring states to secure this life changing insurance coverage. This is making financial concerns impact their medical treatment decisions, such as transferring more than one embryo. This can actually lead to higher health care costs related to high-risk pregnancies, multiple births, and NICU hospitalizations.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of LD 1539. RNE looks forward to assisting in any way that we can be helpful. Please vote that this bill ought to pass.

Sincerely,

*Kate Weldon LeBlanc*

Kate Weldon LeBlanc  
Executive Director

