

May, 3, 2021

Good morning members of the committee,

My name is Jessica Ouellette. My husband Ryan and I live in Lewiston, Maine. Born and raised here, we couldn't imagine living anywhere else. We are proud and true Mainers. But for the past six years and counting, we have been struggling with infertility and have seriously considered moving to Massachusetts where we could have the fertility coverage that we so desperately need and cannot receive here in Maine.

Because of that lack of coverage, going through our fertility treatments here in Maine has placed us in tremendous debt. After two unsuccessful rounds of IVF, we are left with upwards of \$30,000 in loans to pay back with nothing to show for it.

With endometriosis, and male factor infertility, couples like us sometimes need three or more rounds of IVF to be successful. I turn 40 next month and my window to have a child of my own is rapidly closing. Without any coverage and with the enormous debt we were left with, we cannot afford to try again. I find myself thinking, I wish we had moved years ago. We might have had a family by now.

LD 1539 may not pass in time to benefit my husband and me, but it gives me peace to share my story in hopes that it may help future Mainers in trying to have the family that they so desperately desire. Please vote that this bill ought to pass.

Thank You,
Jessica Ouellette