



May 4, 2021

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RE: Support for LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the HCIFS Committee:

On behalf of the Alliance for Fertility Preservation (the AFP), I am writing to express our support for LD 1539. The AFP is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to expanding fertility preservation resources for both patients facing potential infertility as a result of their cancer treatments, and for the health care professionals who treat them.

We are professionals with deep experience and commitment to ensuring that cancer patients receive the information and services that they need in to protect their future fertility and subsequent parenthood options. Having cancer should not preclude someone from having biological children. Unfortunately, the lack of insurance coverage for these procedures puts them out of reach for many patients.

The relevant medical societies including the American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) have issued guidelines stating that all at-risk patients should be informed about their fertility preservation options before the commencement of potentially sterilizing cancer treatment. These guidelines recognize these procedures as the standard of care, and as such, coverage should be established.

Most cancer patients who are of or below reproductive age (0-45) face excellent prospects for survival – approximately 85%. Studies have shown, however, that these survivors suffer higher levels of anxiety and distress and have an overall lower quality of life when their reproductive needs go unaddressed.

LD 1539 would directly and favorably impact these patients by making fertility preservation services such as sperm banking, egg freezing, and embryo freezing more affordable. It would also assist cancer survivors who have suffered reproductive damage to access assisted reproductive technologies that might allow them to have children.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you vote “ought to pass” on LD 1539. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you or the committee members might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Reinecke". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joyce Reinecke,
Executive Director