

May 3, 2021

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

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

My husband and I live in Bath. He serves in the Maine National Guard. We have struggled with infertility since May 2018. We have been unable to afford the fertility treatments necessary to grow our family and fulfill our lifelong dream of having children. We strongly support LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care, and ask that you vote "ought to pass".

Knowing that we need treatments that we cannot afford, which insurance will not cover, has caused grief, stress, emotional distress, and heartache. The fertility condition I have (endometriosis) is getting worse even as we cannot afford IVF, continually narrowing our chance of ever being able to conceive biological children. Infertility is deeply traumatic. Several other young married couples we know are struggling with *years* of infertility as well, couples that would have pursued fertility treatments long ago, if it was covered by insurance. It is devastating when loving couples are denied their own biological children simply because insurance will not cover the necessary procedures. Most couples cannot afford paying thousands of dollars out of pocket for medical treatments, while also paying a house mortgage, car payment, etc. etc.

If my husband and I had walked into infertility knowing we had the financial resources to overcome this, it would have greatly reduced the stress and emotional pain. Instead, we continue month after month, year after year, in a stressful limbo, hoping we will eventually have saved and raised enough money before it is too late. I need a hysterectomy due to the advancing endometriosis. No one should be prevented having a family because their insurance will not offer any kind of fertility assistance, IVF or fertility coverage. It puts enormous strain and pressure on couples dealing with infertility. I implore you to strongly consider supporting LD 1539. It could literally be life changing and life giving for thousands of Maine couples.

Thank you for your time and consideration to provide access to fertility care for many individuals and couples who rely on fertility treatments to build their families.

Sincerely,

Jenny L. Simmler