

May 4, 2021

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

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

I have been pregnant 8 times. I have 2 beautiful daughters. I am one of the lucky ones...it took my husband and I seven years and multiple IVF attempts to finally end up with our first daughter. It took us 3 rounds of IVF to have our second daughter. Because of "unexplained infertility" using IVF was the way we were finally able to build the family of our dreams. There is NO WAY we would have either of our precious children if I hadn't happened to work for a Maine employer that offered fertility coverage to all of our employees. Even though we also had enormous costs out of pocket as well, the insurance coverage that we had made all the difference for us to be able to keep trying even as the odds were stacked against us.

This is why I strongly support LD 1539, An Act to Provide Access to Fertility Care and ask that you vote "ought to pass". The emotional toll of facing fertility issues is steep enough, this bill would at least address the financial toll that it can take on a family.

Some people say "why not just adopt instead?" I will tell you that the entire time that we were going through IVF, both before we had our first child and before we had our second child, we were also enrolled and active with an adoption agency as well. We had a few false starts with adoption but in the end, a match never happened. Adoption is also another VERY expensive process and not an easy one either.

Please support LD 1539, thank you.

Sincerely,

Tracy Thibodeaux

Brunswick, ME

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Brunswick