

March 6, 2023

Re: Support for Senate File 1704

Dear Senator Klein and members of the Committee:

In 2014, my fiancé (boyfriend at the time), Ryan, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at 26 years old. We had only been dating about a year and having a family was not on our radar. Thankfully a nurse at the University of Minnesota, encouraged Ryan to save his sperm prior to treatment. We were told that his treatment, full body radiation, would leave him infertile.

Thankfully Ryan was in remission within a year of starting treatment. But, over the course of the next several years Ryan experienced many post-treatment side effects including osteonecrosis, deterioration of his teeth, and cataracts in each eye. At the same time, he was also spending roughly \$300 a year to store his sperm.

A few short years later, Ryan and I began thinking about expanding our family. For two years we were unsuccessful and eventually learned that Ryan had no active sperm most likely due to his cancer treatment. We began to consider In vitro fertilization (IVF), but the procedures can cost up to \$25,000 for each attempt and there's no guarantee they will be successful.

In 2020, we learned that thankfully my insurance would cover some of my treatments but that we would still be responsible for paying up to \$12,000 and again with no guarantees. We refused to let cancer take away the opportunity to experience becoming parents to biological children, and we began treatment later that year.

The process was emotionally and financially draining. But on June 13th, 2022, we welcomed our baby girl, Kennedy. She's the best thing that has happened to us. We continue to store the remaining two embryos which costs about \$600 a year out of pocket. We're hopeful to have another opportunity to give Kennedy a sibling, but we know it will cost another \$12,000 for the procedures.

Cancer treatment took so much from Ryan. We're so grateful he's alive, but it has cost him so much. Patients, like him, shouldn't have to be forced to make these decisions based on whether or not they can afford fertility preservation. You need to do better for these cancer patients. I ask for your support of Senate File 1704.

Sincerely,

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