

partners (in)fertility

INFERTILITY • PREGNANCY LOSS • ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

March 3, 2023

Chair Matt Klein
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 1704 – Support

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

On behalf of *partners (in)fertility*, the many patients we see who are struggling with infertility treatment, fertility preservation after a cancer diagnosis, and access to fertility care in the LGBT community, I am writing to express my strong support for SF 1704 and to urge the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee to advance this bill out of Committee. I have been working with individuals and couples around the emotional and financial distress of infertility treatment for 25 years. I have been a professional member of RESOLVE throughout my work in the family building community.

SF 1704 updates the state's insurance law to require coverage for fertility and reproductive endocrinology services for men and women. This update will significantly improve access to the standard of care for patients with infertility and those diagnosed with cancer or other conditions that may cause infertility.

According to the CDC, one in eight individuals or couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, and all racial, ethnic and religious lines. Medical conditions such as endometriosis, ovulation disorders, premature ovarian failure and male factor are some causes of infertility. The American Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease. **As such, infertility should be covered by health insurance like other diseases. In addition, members of the LGBTQ+ community face obstacles in accessing the treatment they need to become parents.**

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Family building options are costly; the average cost of an in vitro fertilization (IVF) cycle in the U.S. is approximately \$15,000. A recent survey found that women (25-34 years old) accrued \$30,000 of debt on average after undergoing fertility treatment. Such costs put fertility treatment out of reach for many. In fact, only one in four people get the treatment they need to overcome infertility.

Minnesota should join the growing list of states that require fertility coverage. As proven in these states, insurance covering in vitro fertilization (IVF) decreases the chance of multiple births, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

I respectfully ask that you advance SF 1704 and help ensure it has a pathway to law on behalf of all Minnesotans struggling to build their families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Simmons, PhD, LMFT