

partners (in)fertility

INFERTILITY • PREGNANCY LOSS • ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

March 31, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: IVF Budget Provision - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wiklund:

My partner, Debbie Fischer, and I work closely with the 1 in 8 Minnesotans who are suffering from infertility or are having trouble sustaining a pregnancy, as well as straight and LGBTQ Minnesotans who need medical intervention to build their families. Thank you for supporting adding the provisions of SF 1704 for in vitro fertilization (IVF) and fertility preservation insurance coverage in your HHS omnibus finance bill for large fully insured groups. This is an important and significant first step to assuring that all Minnesotans have access to infertility care.

This pro-family provision 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. 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 all recognize infertility as a disease. Health insurance should cover infertility like other diseases.

The average cost of an IVF cycle in the U.S. is approximately \$15,000. Many of our patients go into significant debt just to have a family. Medical and financial stress is very difficult for our patients.

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

On behalf of all of our patients who are struggling to build their families, we thank you for your support and leadership in supporting this important pro-family-building provision.

Sincerely,

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