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March 19, 2024

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund

Chair

Committee on Health and Human Services

2107 Minnesota Senate Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support Minnesota Building Families Act – SF 1704 (Maye Quade)

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Alliance for Fertility Preservation (AFP), I am writing to express our strong support for SF 1704, The Minnesota Building Families Act, and to urge the Committee on Health and Human Services to include this important provision in the Committee's omnibus finance bill.

The AFP is a national 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to expanding fertility preservation information and resources for patients facing potential infertility caused by cancer treatments. According to National Cancer Institute data, approximately 130,000 Americans between the ages of 0-44 are diagnosed with cancer each year. Due to improvements in treatment, about 85% these patients will survive. Some cancer treatments, however, can cause iatrogenic infertility when chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery damage reproductive cells (eggs and sperm), reproductive organs, and/or endocrine functioning; they can also adversely impact the ability to carry a pregnancy.

The Minnesota Building Families Act updates access to critical reproductive healthcare. It improves care by requiring coverage for infertility and fertility preservation for men and women in private and public health plans. It covers in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other infertility treatments, as well as fertility preservation for cancer patients at risk of medically-induced infertility.

Fertility preservation has been considered part of the standard of care for age-eligible cancer patients for more than fifteen years, and is recognized by all the relevant medical associations, including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and the American Medical Association (AMA). Currently, sperm, egg, embryo, and ovarian tissue banking are viewed as standard fertility preservation procedures.

Patients facing iatrogenic infertility have recognized, effective options for preserving fertility, but the high cost is often a barrier. Expenses can range from several hundred dollars for sperm banking to approximately \$15,000 for egg banking. Without insurance coverage, these standard treatments are unaffordable for many patients. Minnesota should join the growing list of states that require fertility preservation coverage.

We respectfully ask that you include SF 1704 in the omnibus finance bill and help give Minnesota young adult cancer patients hope by ensuring access to treatments that will protect their ability to have biological children in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Joyce Reinecke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joyce Reinecke,
Executive Director