



March 19, 2024

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) would like to express our strong support for SF 1704, the Minnesota Building Families Act.

OB/GYN providers see first-hand the pain and stress that our patients undergo when having fertility issues as they strive to begin or add to their families. According to the CDC, one in seven women have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, and all racial, ethnic and religious lines.

Without insurance coverage, people are forced to shoulder the entire cost of fertility services themselves, adding financial stress and debt on top of the already considerable emotional toll of infertility. Many can't afford to start treatments. Others stop prematurely when their savings run out.

Many of our patients and families also encounter infertility or the risk of infertility while undergoing medical treatments for cancer or other serious medical conditions. In vitro fertilization, which is often needed to treat infertility, is also the only effective tool for fertility preservation. When a young patient faces treatment that risks permanent damage to their reproductive system, fertility preservation is a vital component of their health care that needs to be covered by insurance. I personally faced a cancer diagnosis at the age of 33 and underwent IVF as a way to preserve fertility, which was vital to my mental health as I entered into months of chemotherapy.

Minnesota should join the growing list of 21 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.



We urge you to support SF 1704.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Slagle, MD
MN ACOG Chair