



Facing Hereditary Cancer **EMPOWERED**

March 5, 2024

Re: Support of SF 1704 - Coverage requirement for infertility treatment

Dear Chair Wiklund, Vice Chair Mann, Ranking Member Utke and esteemed Committee of the Senate Health and Human Services:

On behalf of FORCE and the millions of Americans at increased risk of cancer due to an inherited predisposition, I am writing to express our strong support for SF 1704 - Coverage requirement for infertility treatment. This legislation provides insurance coverage for fertility preservation and in vitro fertilization procedures for those facing a medical diagnosis or treatment that can impair their fertility. People facing serious illnesses such as cancer want to know they will be able to pursue their dream of parenthood in the future.

Patients in the midst of dealing with a frightening diagnosis—who are about to begin lifesaving, but potentially sterilizing treatments—have to make urgent, difficult decisions about their future hopes of becoming a parent. Similarly, women with an inherited genetic mutation predisposing them to ovarian cancer are advised to undergo surgery to remove their ovaries and fallopian tubes to avoid this deadly disease. For these individuals, fertility preservation and in vitro fertilization procedures are the only means available to protect their reproductive capability. Without insurance coverage, however, many patients simply cannot afford these procedures and face permanent, involuntary infertility and the dramatic loss of parenthood.

Fortunately, SF 1704 would give Minnesota residents confronting this dilemma hope by ensuring that they have insurance coverage for effective, evidence-based options for preserving their fertility prior to their surgery or initiation of cancer therapy. These fertility procedures are consistent with national guidelines issued by leading medical associations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

FORCE has a strong presence throughout the state of Minnesota. Members of our community facing cancer are desperate for a glimmer of hope to help them preserve the option of having children. We respectfully ask you to help Minnesota patients by supporting SF 1704.

Sincerely,

Lisa Peabody

Advocacy Manager

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