

March 20, 2024

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

The Honorable Paul Utke
Ranking Member, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
2403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for Senate File 4602 as amended

Dear Senator Wiklund, Senator Utke, and members of the committee:

On July 9th, 2018, our family was confronted with news no family deserves to hear: our son, third of three, who had only been tired for a week, had leukemia. His white blood cell count - diagnostic for leukemia – were 15 times over the normal value putting his life at imminent danger requiring immediate admission to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, where a bed, many needles and IV's and chemotherapy were waiting for him in the pediatric ICU. Because of his high blood cell count, treatment was to commence as soon as possible, but not before we answered some crucial questions, including: "Do you want to preserve some of his sperm in case 3,5 years of chemotherapy and other treatments might lead to infertility?".

Now the one thing I didn't mention yet was that our son was 3 years old at the time. How were we to make such a decision for him after just being confronted with his life-threatening diagnosis? How we supposed to think about his risk and him wanting children 2 decades from now when we didn't even know what tomorrow would bring? And who is to know what research, medical knowledge and support will be available when that time comes?

And although after 1,223 days of treatment our son beat significant odds and is now a 2-year cancer survivor, we won't know what the long-term consequences on his life, health and wish to have his own family are. It is therefore, for him, for our family, and for all other families needing support for fertility preservation, IVF and reproductive services that I write to you, because no family should have to worry about that during the worst news of their life of when the need for them arises.

We ask for your support of Senate File 4602.

Thank you!

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