

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund

Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2107

St Paul, MN 55155

Health and Service Committee Members

Regarding Bill # ST 1704

March 20, 2024

Dear Chair Wiklund and committee members,

I am writing in support of bill # ST 1704. Currently there are 16 states which have legislation providing coverage for fertility preservation and several more states have legislation pending.

I am a family nurse practitioner and along with several other colleagues provide fertility preservation counseling to pediatric, adolescent and young adult patients facing cancer treatment. Cancer treatment often includes surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Some of these treatments are considered high risk for infertility in the future. This bill would provide insurance coverage for fertility preservation.


Well established, and recognized by multiple professional organizations, methods for preservation include for females, egg freezing, ovarian tissue freezing, and menstrual suppression. Average cost for these interventions range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 dollars. For males, sperm banking and sperm extraction procedures may cost \$7,500-\$10,000 dollars. Many families are not able to afford these costs and insurance coverage has been non-existent or very limited.

Costs are a major barrier for families and often result in fertility preservation being out of reach. Those who have financial resources proceed with these preservation methods. Some families without resources make huge sacrifices to be able to proceed. I have had the heartbreaking experience of listening to patients who cannot afford fertility preservation and those who have completed their treatment and find out they lost their ability to have children due to their treatments.

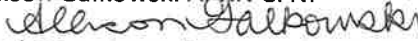
I would strongly conclude that fertility preservation is medically necessary. These treatments have become standard of care and promote better medical outcomes. Equity considerations are equally important as those who are unable to afford these treatment are left with no options. On behalf of the patients my colleagues and I care for, please pass this very important legislation.

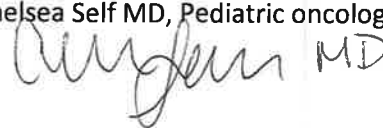
Sincerely,

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