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March 18, 2024

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Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
2107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

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

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

I am a Reproductive Endocrinologist and Infertility Physician working at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. I am writing to express our strong support for The Minnesota Building Families Act and to urge the Committee on Health and Human Services and to include this important provision in the Committee's omnibus finance bill.

The Minnesota Building Families Act updates access to necessary reproductive healthcare. Coverage is critical to be able to provide equitable care to cancer patients facing chemotherapy induced infertility, the LGBTQ+ community, and 1 in 7 couples who suffer from this disease.

Infertility cuts across socioeconomic levels, and all racial, ethnic and religious lines. Our ability to treat the disease should not discriminate. The AMA, ACOG and WHO identify infertility as a disease. As such, infertility should be covered by health insurance like other diseases.

It's time Minnesota joins the growing list of 21 states that require fertility coverage. As proven in these states, insurance covering IVF decreases the chance of multiple births, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chandra C. Shenoy".

Chandra C. Shenoy, M.D.
Medical Director of 3rd Party Reproduction at Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN

CCS:pjj