

3/18/23

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:

On behalf of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group at the University of Minnesota Medical School, 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 critical reproductive healthcare. It improves care by requiring coverage for infertility and fertility preservation for men and women in private and public health plans. It covers in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other infertility treatments, as well as fertility preservation for cancer patients and others at risk of medically-induced infertility. The bill reflects the recently updated medical definition of infertility, which includes the LGBTQ+ community.

Without health insurance for fertility treatments, including IVF, most Minnesotans cannot access this medically necessary care.

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. The AMA, ACOG and WHO identify infertility as a disease. As such, infertility should be covered by health insurance like other diseases.

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.

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,

Anna Hornbach and Shreya Chanda