

March 19, 2024

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:

My name is Olivia Seonbuchner, and I am from Chaska. I am a mother via IVF in part thanks to the Illinois infertility insurance mandate. After I was diagnosed with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome in 2018 and my husband, Eric, was diagnosed with Male Factor Infertility in 2019, we learned IVF would be our only option for having biological children. We were relieved to find that my employer, who is headquartered in Chicago, offers infertility insurance coverage for our disease aligning with the Illinois law. Through this, we were able to undergo an IVF cycle in 2020 and welcomed our son Kai in April 2021. We pursued another embryo transfer last year and are currently expecting a daughter a week before Kai's third birthday. **Without insurance coverage, we would not be parents.**

In comparing my experience to others in the infertility community, insurance coverage enabled us to pursue treatment much earlier and faster than my peers. I was able to undergo an egg retrieval in my late 20s, when the odds of a positive outcome were higher given that fertility declines with age. We didn't have to wait to start treatment while we saved money or take pauses in treatment due to financial concerns, as I have seen many others do. Time is of the essence with fertility treatments, and insurance coverage was critical to receiving prompt treatment.

Being a parent brings so much joy to my life, and it is my sincerest hope that all facing the disease of infertility have the opportunity to experience such a joy. The lack of insurance coverage, for a disease, is an impediment to achieving that, and all Minnesotans should have the opportunity via infertility insurance coverage. Other states like Illinois have figured out solutions that work and make a difference, let's make Minnesota the next state.

Thank You,
Olivia Seonbuchner
Chaska, MN

