FORCE

Facing Hereditary Cancer EMPOWERED

March 3, 2026

Re: In favor of SF 1961

Dear Chairman Klein, Vice-Chairwoman Seeberger, Ranking Minority Member Dahms and Esteemed Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

On behalf of FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered), a leading nonprofit for people at risk for hereditary cancer, providing trusted information, support and advocacy and our Minnesota constituents, I am writing to express strong support for SF 1961. This bill would facilitate fertility services in Minnesota with coverage for fertility services, including those dealing with a medical diagnosis or treatment that may impair their ability to have children.

Patients dealing with a frightening diagnosis—who are about to begin lifesaving, but potentially sterilizing treatments—have to make urgent, difficult decisions about their future hopes of becoming a parent. Similarly, women with an inherited genetic mutation predisposing them to ovarian cancer are advised to undergo surgery to remove their ovaries and fallopian tubes to avoid this deadly disease. For these individuals, fertility preservation is the only means available to protect their reproductive capability and may be the only viable option to build a biological family. Without insurance coverage for fertility services, patients cannot afford these procedures and fees and will face permanent, involuntary infertility.

Fortunately, this legislation would give most Minnesotans options for those confronting this dilemma by ensuring that they have insurance coverage for effective, evidence-based options for preserving their fertility before their surgery or initiation of cancer therapy and pursuing future interventions to realize their dream of having children. These fertility services are consistent with national guidelines issued by leading medical associations, including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

FORCE has a strong presence throughout Minnesota. Members of our community facing cancer are desperate for a glimmer of hope to help them preserve the option of having children. We respectfully ask you to help patients facing infertility by supporting SF 1961 and voting it favorably out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa S Peabody

Lisa Peabody
Advocacy Manager
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