



May 3, 2023

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Vermont Health Care Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

RE: Support for H.369, “An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility-related services”

Dear Chair Houghton, Vice Chair McFaun, and Health Care committee members:

On behalf of the Alliance for Fertility Preservation (the AFP), we are writing to express our support for H.369, “An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility-related services.” H. 369 would require private health insurance plans and Vermont Medicaid to provide coverage for both infertility care and for fertility preservation services when a medically necessary treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation may directly or indirectly cause iatrogenic infertility.

We are a national 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to expanding fertility resources for cancer patients and survivors. We have deep professional experience with this patient need, and we know that due to advances in reproductive technology, cancer need not preclude parenthood. Offering techniques to preserve fertility is now recognized by all relevant medical societies as a standard part of cancer care, but access remains a challenge.

Most young cancer patients now face good prospects for survival (better than 85%), but these patients may involuntarily lose an important part of life after cancer – having a family. H.369 would help alleviate this unnecessary loss by creating a realistic opportunity for patients to safeguard their genetic material prior to beginning possibly sterilizing chemotherapy, radiation, or surgery for cancer. Further, the infertility coverage created by H.369 would allow these patients the ability to use their preserved tissues after they have completed cancer treatment to build their families. Without insurance coverage for these services most patients simply cannot afford these medically needed procedures.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that the committee advance this bill next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Reinecke". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joyce Reinecke,
Executive Director