



May 4, 2023

House Health Care Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

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

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is pleased to submit the following testimony to the House Health Committee in favor **H369, “An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility-related services”** and respectfully ask that the committee advance this bill next year. H369 would require private health insurance plans and Vermont Medicaid to provide coverage for fertility care.

At LLS, our mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS exists to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients.

Many of those blood cancer patients are young adults. Blood cancers, including leukemia, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and Hodgkins lymphoma, are among the most common types of cancer diagnosed in children and young adults. Leukemia alone accounts for nearly a quarter of all cancers diagnosed in people under 20.

The good news is that advancements in research and treatment of these conditions have led to significant improvements in survival rates for pediatric cancer patients. However, fertility preservation is an essential consideration for pediatric and young adult blood cancer survivors. Even with comprehensive insurance coverage, blood cancer patients can face significant treatment costs, particularly in the twelve months following diagnosis. No patient, or parents of a young patient, should be put into a position where they have to weigh the additional costs of fertility preservation services that are only necessary as a result of their cancer treatment against the costs of the treatment itself.

Currently, thirteen states have fertility preservation coverage in statute, including most New England states, New York, New Jersey, and numerous others, the most recent being Kentucky.

We urge the members of the Committee to vote **to pass** H369. Health insurance policies in Vermont should provide coverage for fertility diagnostic care, fertility treatment, and medically necessary fertility preservation.

Sincerely,
Ernie Davis
Director, State Government Affairs
ernie.davis@lls.org