May 3, 2023

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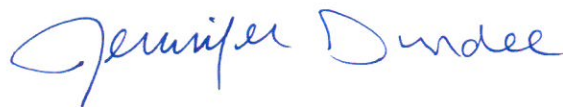115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

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

We are writing to express our strong support for **H.369, "An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility-related services"** and respectfully ask that the committee advance this bill next year. H. 369 would require private health insurance plans and Vermont Medicaid to provide coverage for fertility care.

We provide care for infertility at the University of Vermont Medical Center, where we have a Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) fellowship training program that encompasses the full breadth of testing and treatment. We also routinely provide fertility preservation to patients faced with a cancer diagnosis. This act of hope can provide comfort during a very dark time of life for these patients.

Close to 75% of our patients do not have insurance coverage for fertility treatment, and many are willing to assume significant debt to pursue this care. We offer one of the lowest cost bundles for IVF available in this country, because one of our main missions has been to provide the most affordable care possible to increase access to this care. Even so, we have many patients who simply cannot afford it. Infertility does not discriminate according to socioeconomic status or race, and we strongly believe that our services should be attainable by all. Implementing universal coverage not just for testing, but also for treatment, is an issue of social justice. Health insurance policies in Vermont should provide coverage for fertility diagnostic care, fertility treatment, and medically necessary fertility preservation.

Sincerely,

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