



February 22, 2023

The Honorable Ann Cummings, Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Vermont State House  
115 State Street, Room 6  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Senator Cummings and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

The Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (NNECOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are providing comment on **S. 63**, which as currently written, provides optional coverage of fertility preservation services for Vermont patients with cancer. We encourage the Finance Committee to amend the bill to require fertility preservation coverage, which would protect Vermont patients with cancer and allow them to start families after treatment.

NNECOS is a professional organization whose mission is to facilitate improvements for Vermont physician specialties in both hematology and oncology. NNECOS members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other physicians who specialize in cancer care. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality, equitable cancer care.

NNECOS and ASCO believe that as part of education and informed consent before cancer therapy, health care providers should address the possibility of infertility with both male and female patients treated during their reproductive years. Providers should also be prepared to discuss fertility preservation options and/or refer all potential patients to appropriate reproductive specialists. As such, NNECOS and ASCO advocate for coverage of embryo, oocyte and sperm cryopreservation procedures for an insured patient of reproductive age who has been diagnosed with cancer but has not started cancer treatment (including chemotherapy, biotherapy or radiation therapy treatment) in accordance with [guidelines](#) developed by our affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

We encourage providers to advise patients regarding potential threats to fertility as early as possible in the treatment process to allow for the widest array of options for fertility preservation. NNECOS and ASCO strongly support requiring fertility preservation coverage in S. 63, which would provide coverage of fertility preservation procedures for patients with cancer. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Lori Aubrey at NNECOS at [laubrey@nnecos.org](mailto:laubrey@nnecos.org) or Aaron Segel at ASCO at [aaron.segel@asco.org](mailto:aaron.segel@asco.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cocav Rauwerdink".

Cocav Rauwerdink, MD  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori J. Pierce".

Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO  
Chair of the Board

Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

Association for Clinical Oncology