



**February 7, 2025**

**TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care**

**RE: House Bill 2959, Relating to infertility - SUPPORT**

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Chair and members of the Committee.

I am Adam Zarrin, the Director of State Government Affairs for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Our organization's mission is to cure blood cancers and improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

**On behalf of blood cancer patients and their families, we urge your support of HB 2959, mandating coverage for fertility preservation services.**

When first diagnosed with blood cancer, a patient's primary concern will be their upcoming treatment and long-term survival.

They may not initially consider how their treatment could impact their ability to have children in the future.

However, chemotherapy and radiation can cause "late" side effects that may appear months or years after treatment.

One of those possible late effects is infertility, the inability to conceive a child without medical intervention.

Infertility after treatment can impact both male and female patients of all ages.

Treatment must begin quickly, which leaves patients with a difficult choice and little time to appeal to insurers for coverage after a denial of coverage.

And regardless of coverage, fertility treatments are expensive.

The cost of fertility treatments and annual egg or sperm storage can reach tens of thousands of dollars, making it very challenging for patients to afford these out-of-pocket costs, especially on top of their other cancer treatment bills.

Failure to preserve fertility is a common regret that may affect survivors' quality of life.

Patients deserve access to affordable fertility preservation services tailored to their needs, empowering them to make the best decisions for themselves and their families.

Again, we appreciate the committee's time and consideration of this critical patient concern.

Please support HB 2959. Thank you.