



Testimony In support
Senate Bill 339 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR
ELECTIVE FERTILITY PRESERVATION TREATMENTS
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 14, 2019

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the CT Chapter of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (CT ACOG), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of the **Senate Bill 339 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ELECTIVE FERTILITY PRESERVATION TREATMENTS.**

We welcome the opportunity to engage in continued dialog as we have done in past sessions, and hopefully provide some insight and medical knowledge that would influence any legislation requiring health insurance coverage for elective fertility preservation for medical conditions.

CSMS and CT ACOG fully believe that every Connecticut resident should have the opportunity to experience the fullest quality of life that today's medical science can provide, including those who have been diagnosed with life-threatening conditions, or who have concern about previous or current medical conditions that could lead to future infertility. This quality of life includes the ability to experience the joy of having children. However, increasingly, patients who have been diagnosed early in their lives with certain medical conditions often question the lifelong and life-altering impact of medically necessary surgical or medical treatment, such as the loss of the biological ability to have children. In fact, there are some examples of individuals delaying or even forgoing medically necessary treatment, because of the fear of not being able to have children later in life.

It should not be difficult to imagine how profoundly disappointing it can be to learn that treatments are available for those facing sterility or the significant loss of fertility because of life saving medical and surgical treatment, but that insurance coverage for these treatments is not. Women are disproportionately impacted because the cost of extraction and storage is significantly higher than for men. The cost of these procedures is often so high that many will forgo fertility-preserving procedures, and some will risk their lives by delaying treatment of the underlying medical condition in the attempt to get pregnant (or get their spouse pregnant).

Please support the concepts surrounding Senate Bill 339 so that treatment options can be provided without the fear of loss of the ability to have children later in life for those who elect to have fertility preservation treatment in the chance or likelihood that medical conditions could result later in life to sterilization or the inability to have children.