



Facing Hereditary Cancer EMPOWERED

November 1, 2021

Joint Committee on Financial Services  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate Chair Welch, House Chair Murphy, and members of the committee,

On behalf of FORCE and the millions of Americans at with, or at increased risk of cancer due to a genetic predisposition, I am writing to express our strong support for S.640/H.1116, an *Act Relative to Preserving Fertility*. This legislation provides insurance coverage for fertility preservation for those facing a medical diagnosis or treatment that can impair their fertility. People facing serious illness such as cancer want to know they will be able to pursue their dream of parenthood in the future.

Patients dealing with a frightening diagnosis—who are about to begin lifesaving, but potentially sterilizing treatments—have to make urgent, difficult decisions about their future hopes of becoming a parent. Similarly, women with an inherited genetic mutation placing them at high risk of ovarian cancer are advised to undergo surgery to remove their ovaries and fallopian tubes to avoid this deadly disease. For these individuals, fertility preservation is the only means available to protect their reproductive capability. Without insurance coverage, however, many patients simply cannot afford these procedures and face permanent, involuntary infertility.

Fortunately, S.640/H.1116 would provide Massachusetts residents confronting this dilemma hope by ensuring that they have insurance coverage for effective, evidence-based options to preserve their fertility prior to surgery or initiation of cancer treatment. These fertility preservation interventions are consistent with national guidelines issued by leading medical associations including the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

FORCE has a strong presence throughout the state of Massachusetts with thousands of constituents and a number of volunteers in the state. Members of our community facing cancer are desperate for a glimmer of hope to help them preserve the option of having children. We respectfully ask you to help Massachusetts patients facing infertility by supporting S.640/H.1116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Schlager".

Lisa Schlager  
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