



May 5, 2021

The Honorable Denise Tepler, Co-Chair
The Honorable Heather Sanborn, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Maine Legislature
100 State House Station, Cross Building – Room 220
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Representative Tepler (Co-Chair), Senator Sanborn (Co-Chair), and Members of the Committee,

The Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society (NNECOS) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to support **LD 1539: An Act To Provide Access To Fertility Care**. The Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services' passage of LD 1539 would be a crucial step in helping to make Maine the 11th state to provide this important protection for patients with cancer.

NNECOS is a professional organization whose mission is to promote the highest quality care for patients with cancer and blood disorders in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. NNECOS members are a community of hematologists, oncologists, and other healthcare professionals 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 who is at least eighteen years of age and 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 LD 1539 and encourage the committee to pass it to provide coverage of fertility preservation procedures for cancer patients. 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 or Aaron Segel at ASCO at aaron.segel@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Wood".

Marie Wood, MD
President
Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Bertagnolli, MD".

Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO
Chair of the Board
Association for Clinical Oncology