

February 23, 2012

LATE

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair of The Committee on Health

Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair and members of the Committee

From: Philip I. McNamee, M.D., Practice Director of the Pacific In Vitro Fertilization Institute

Re: HB 2105 HD1 Relating to Health HCR9/HR7

I am Dr. Philip McNamee, Practice Director of the Pacific In Vitro Fertilization Institute, testifying to strongly support HB 2105,HD1 regarding preservation of fertility in cancer patients. I also would like to offer one amendment which I will explain in the testimony.

The diagnosis of cancer at any age is devastating. Even more so in young women who have looked forward to family building and whose hopes have been severely compromised by their diagnosis. Recently due to improved treatment modalities- especially x-ray therapy and chemotherapy many women with the diagnosis of breast cancer, lymphoma and other cancers have been cured. Unfortunately the x-ray therapy and the chemotherapy can destroy the ability of women's ovaries to produce viable oocytes (eggs). This renders the cured patient infertile because her eggs cannot be fertilized and cannot be used to create a normal baby.

Embryo freezing (cryopreservation) has been available for many years and recently fast freezing (vitrification) has become available to freeze oocytes successfully. These in vitro fertilization techniques allow a woman who has cancer to cryopreserve her oocytes or embryos before the x-ray or chemotherapy begins so that her ability to have children is not severely compromised. Later, if she is cured of her disease she can then use the cryopreserved embryos or oocytes to become pregnant.

Since some young women who are diagnosed with cancer are not married and do not have a partner it would be necessary to cryopreserve their oocytes (eggs) instead of embryos in order to preserve their fertility. For that reason I offer an amendment to page 2 lines 3 and 18 to read "...cryopreserve embryos and/or oocytes ..."

The cost to the insurance companies would be very small. I estimate that the number of patients who would be helped by this legislation is approximately 10-15 per year. However the impact on those few patients who are facing a life threatening disease and who are given hope to be able to have a family in the future is immeasurable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

morikawa2 - Grant

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 7:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR9 on 2/24/2012 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Testimony for HLT 2/24/2012 9:15:00 AM HCR9

Conference room: 329
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brenda Kosky
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Brenda.Kosky@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments: