

baker4 - Mary Kate

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 9:35 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: lokelani@hawaiisurrogacy.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB502 on Feb 3, 2017 09:30AM

LATE

SB502

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 3, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lokelani North	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha~ I strongly write in support SB 502, which seeks to eliminate discrimination in health insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF) on the basis of sex, sexual orientation and marital status. For many individuals and couples, IVF is their only HOPE in achieving the ultimate goal of having a child/children. Please mandate that everyone have the right to equally access IVF services here in Hawaii. Much Mahalo and Aloha, Lokelani

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baker4 - Mary Kate

From: Reina Harris <reinaharris@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:44 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Subject: Support SB 502

LATE

2/2/17

I write in **strong support of SB 502** which seeks to eliminate discrimination in health insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF) on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, or marital status.

Current Hawaii law requires insurance providers to cover expenses relating to IVF procedures for heterosexual married couples only. This leaves unmarried couples and LGBT couples at a significant disadvantage when planning for their families. SB 502 remedies this discrimination by requiring IVF on an equal basis with regards to sex, sexual orientation, or marital status.

I am a mother of 9 week old twins and a 2 year old, and my children would not be here without the aid of IVF after 5 years of attempting to conceive. I understand longing of wanting to birth a child and the heartache of imagining not being able to experience this gift.

I am also an OBGYN of almost 10 years in practice, so I grasp the complexity and cost of assisted reproduction with IVF. Yet I regularly see patients who are seeking to start a family, and for those whom it is indicated, I want to be able to offer them the same option that I had as a married heterosexual woman: a chance to start a family with the aid of IVF with the aid of insurance coverage.

It breaks my heart when I have a lesbian couple approach me for counseling for family planning because I have to tell them that while IVF is the most successful option for them to achieve a pregnancy, they are not eligible for insurance coverage because of their sexual orientation. When they asking k me an estimate of what the cost out of pocket might be, I see the disappointment in their faces when I tell them "probably \$10,000-20,000".

Or when a 34 year old heterosexual woman in a committed relationship who seeks infertility treatment sees me for counseling, I have to tell her that she need to get married before considering the option of IVF if she want insurance coverage. This is extremely frustrating especially when this delays fertility treatment and the success rates of IVF decrease with age, especially after age 35.

I support SB 502, and respectfully ask that the Committee approve this measure. (I would have wanted to be present to testify at the hearing but I have my twins' 2 month health check up at the same time.)

Aloha,
Reina Harris, MD, FACOG
OBGYN

Sent from my iPhone