



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN

SB 988 - HEALTH INSURANCE – IN VITRO FERTILIZATION –
REVISIONS

SB 988 addresses a gap in our current law for the treatment of infertility. Maryland has required insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF) for married couples since 2000. In 2015, we expanded it to cover same sex married couples.

This bill would reflect current trends in parenting and current clinical practice, expanding coverage to couples and individuals who are not married. It would also change from 2 years to 1 year the amount of time one would have to document infertility before being eligible for IVF, which would apply to both married couples and unmarried individuals.

Current Maryland law requires that couples try to conceive for 2 years, reflecting an outdated clinical approach. Guidelines on infertility from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine define it as an inability to become pregnant after twelve months of consistent attempts to conceive. This bill would update these clinical guidelines and would allow women access to IVF earlier, improving the chances of success because we know that age can be an aspect of infertility. The bill also reduces the number of attempts at artificial insemination one would have to make – from six attempts to three.

I will offer an amendment to strike anti-discrimination language that we have agreed is unnecessary and, with that, the insurance carriers are not opposed to the bill.

Thousands of Marylanders have difficulty becoming pregnant and deserve access to today's modern technology that will assist them. This bill brings our law up to date, reflecting modern patterns in both medicine and parenting. I respectfully request your support for SB 988. Thank you.