



The American Society for Reproductive Medicine

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February 26, 2020

The Honorable Delores Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
Maryland Senate
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 988 – *Health Insurance – In Vitro Fertilization Revisions*

Dear Chair Kelley and Members the Committee:

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), we write to express support for SB 988, which would ensure all Maryland citizens have the opportunity to realize their dream of becoming parents.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others. SART is an organization of nearly 400 member practices performing more than 95% of the assisted reproductive technology (ART) cycles in the United States. SART's mission is to set and help maintain the highest medical and professional standards for ART. SART works with the ASRM to create practice guidelines and minimum standards of care.

Specifically, this legislation aims to ensure equitable access – regardless of whether a woman is married – to coverage, under certain insurance plans, of in vitro fertilization services. While Maryland is one of 16 states that mandates some form of coverage for these services, it is also one of just five that offers this coverage only to married couples, according to a Maryland Department of Legislative Services analysis. Passage of this bill would keep Maryland on pace with national trends and states like New York and New Jersey, which recently updated their laws to ensure unwed women have coverage.

Moreover, Maryland law requires most health insurance providers to cover the cost after a couple has failed to conceive through less costly infertility treatments such as artificial insemination. SB 988 will, in alignment with ASRM's practice guidelines, decrease the time any woman must try and fail to conceive by other methods before insurance must provide coverage – reducing the requirement from two years to one.

We support and encourage swift passage of SB 988. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Catherine Racowsky

Catherine Racowsky, PhD
President, ASRM

Paul Lin

Paul Lin, MD
President, SART

