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Texas House Committee on Insurance

On House Bill 2682: Relating to health benefit coverage for certain fertility preservation services under certain health benefit plans.

April 9, 2019

The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) writes today in strong support of legislation scheduled for a hearing in the House Insurance Committee, House bill 2682. This bill requires a health benefit plan to provide coverage for fertility preservation services to a covered person who will receive a medically necessary treatment, including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation that may directly or indirectly cause impaired fertility. The passage of HB 2682 is a crucial step in helping to make Texas the 6th state to take this important step for cancer patients.

ASCO is the national organization representing more than 45,000 physicians and other health care professionals specializing in cancer treatment, diagnosis, and prevention. ASCO members are also dedicated to conducting research that leads to improved patient outcomes, and we are committed to ensuring that evidence-based practices for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer are available to all Americans.

ASCO has long advocated inclusion of fertility preservation as a critical component of patient education and informed consent before cancer therapy. ASCO previously published recommendations for fertility preservation in its [2018 Clinical Practice Guideline Update](#), "Fertility Preservation in Patients With Cancer." They include:

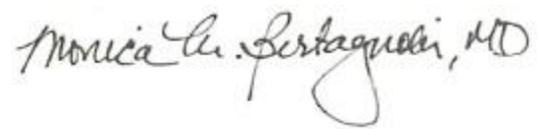
- Health care providers should discuss the possibility of infertility with cancer patients receiving treatment during their reproductive years or with parents/guardians of children as early as possible.
- Providers should be prepared to discuss fertility preservation options and/or to refer all potential patients to appropriate reproductive specialists.
- Providers should advise patients regarding potential threats to fertility as early as possible in the treatment process. This allows for the widest array of options for fertility preservation. The discussion should be documented.

As such, ASCO advocates for coverage of embryo, oocyte and sperm cryopreservation procedures for patients who have been diagnosed with cancer, but who have not started cancer treatment (including chemotherapy, biotherapy or radiation therapy treatment).

ASCO strongly supports HB 2682. We encourage the House Insurance Committee to pass this legislation out of committee and protect fertility preservation procedures for patients in Texas with cancer. If you have questions or would like assistance on

any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Kate Sikora at ASCO at katherine.sikora@asco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica L. Bertagnolli, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' and 'B'.

Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO
President, American Society of Clinical Oncology