



ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

January 10, 2023

The Honorable Mike Lefor, Chair  
House Industry, Business, and Labor Committee  
600 East Boulevard Avenue  
Room JW327C  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chair Lefor and Members of the House Industry Business and Labor Committee,

The Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is pleased to support HB 1146, which would provide coverage of fertility preservation services to North Dakota public employees and their family members with cancer. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality, equitable cancer care.

ASCO believes that as part of education and informed consent before cancer treatment, health care providers should address the possibility of infertility with both male and female patients treated during their reproductive years. Providers should also be prepared to discuss fertility preservation options and/or refer all potential patients to appropriate reproductive specialists. As such ASCO advocates for coverage of embryo, oocyte and sperm cryopreservation procedures for a covered patient who is at least reproductive age and has been diagnosed with cancer but has not started cancer treatment (including chemotherapy, biotherapy or radiation therapy treatment) in accordance with [guidelines](#) developed by our affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

We encourage providers to advise patients regarding potential threats to fertility as early as possible in the treatment process to allow for the widest array of options for fertility preservation. We strongly support HB 1146 and encourage the Industry, Business, and Labor Committee to pass this legislation to protect fertility preservation procedures for public employees with cancer patients. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Aaron Segel at ASCO at [aaron.segel@asco.org](mailto:aaron.segel@asco.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori J. Pierce MD". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lori J. Pierce, MD, FASTRO, FASCO  
Chair of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology