



Legislative Meetings in a Nutshell

Introduction

1. Introduce yourself (name and where you are from) and thank for meeting with you today.
2. Say that you are an advocate for *the Coalition to Help Families Struggling with Infertility*.
3. Build a bridge: Say you have looked at this lawmaker's background and s/he has done some very pro-family things (name some). WE are pro-family, too!
4. You want to talk about the disease of infertility and The Fair Access to Fertility Treatment Act, which would help New Yorkers struggling with this disease and those struggling with cancer where the treatment causes infertility.

Disease of Infertility (Show and give them the Legislative Agenda)

1. 1 in 8 couples have trouble conceiving or carrying a pregnancy to term. That's more than 440,000 New Yorkers. Approximately 9% of all cancer patients – about 10,000 New Yorkers annually – are diagnosed while in their reproductive years, the majority of which are at risk for iatrogenic infertility from their treatment.
2. Cost is the #1 barrier to infertility medical treatment and fertility preservation; New York's current infertility insurance law does not cover IVF nor does it cover fertility preservation for cancer patients.
3. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease, which means it should be covered by health insurance like other diseases.
4. The American Society of Clinical Oncology has issued guidelines stating that all at-risk patients should be informed about fertility preservation before the commencement of potentially sterilizing cancer treatment. The American Medical Assn passed a Resolution calling for coverage for fertility preservation for cancer patients.
OPTIONAL: Share your story; tell out-of-pocket costs and whether you had insurance coverage.

Infertility Insurance Coverage in New York State

1. Since 1990, New York has required insurance coverage for some infertility treatments, but NOT for in-vitro fertilization treatment (IVF). IVF is utilized for egg retrieval and freezing for fertility preservation.
2. Eight states (excluding NY) require coverage for IVF: AR, CT, HI, IL, MA, MD, NJ, and RI.

The Fair Access to Fertility Treatment Act Does the Following:

1. Requires insurance coverage for IVF;
2. Clarifies that infertility is a disease;
3. Requires coverage for fertility preservation when a medical treatment for cancer, for example, can cause infertility;
4. Adds non-discrimination language to ensure that all eligible individuals can receive coverage.

Benefits of IVF Coverage

1. Infertility treatment has advanced considerably since New York passed its infertility coverage law. IVF is now considered the standard of care to treat the disease of infertility and enables patients to protect against infertility arising from certain cancer treatments.
2. IVF insurance can decrease the chance of multiple births.
3. Reducing multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

ASKS: Please ask your legislators to:

1. Support the Fair Access to Fertility Treatment Act (FAFTA)
2. Speak to leadership about putting the bill on the agenda for a vote (Assembly: Speaker Heastie, Majority Leader Morelle; Senate: Insurance Chair Seward, Majority Leader Flanagan)
3. Show and give them the RESOLVE Memorandum of Support, Letter of Support from Coalition to Help Families Struggling with Infertility (CHFSI), CHFSI Cost Sheet and any additional handouts in the toolkit.

Thank them!