



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Date: April 12, 2017

Re: S3148 (Savino) / A2646 (Simotas) – Insurance Coverage of in vitro fertilization and other fertility preservation treatments

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) supports the enactment of S3148 (Savino) / A2646 (Simotas), which requires insurance coverage for in vitro fertilization (IVF) and fertility preservation services for large group policies.

Improvements in cancer treatment have made it possible for more people to live longer, healthier lives after cancer. But many of these new therapies also carry a risk of affecting the ability to have children. Today there are a number of options available for people with cancer who wish to preserve their fertility before treatment begins or start a family after their treatment is completed. S3148 (Savino) / A2646 (Simotas) includes provisions for coverage of fertility preservation services which patients may utilize before receiving a medical treatment, such as cancer therapy, that causes iatrogenic infertility (infertility resulting from surgery, radiation, chemotherapy or other medical treatment affecting fertility.) Fertility preservation services include sperm banking, egg freezing, and embryo freezing.

In 2014, approximately 500 men and 900 women ages 18-45 began treatment for cancer at MSK. About 50% of these patients received treatment that poses a risk of infertility. Recognizing the significance of fertility to cancer survivors, MSK provides resources and services to ensure patients are informed about options to preserve fertility before beginning cancer treatment, as well as options to build a family after treatment is completed. In addition to information provided by the treating oncology clinicians, we have designated Fertility Nurse Specialists available to provide in depth education and counseling. Since the inception of the program, they have counseled over 2,000 patients, 69% specifically about fertility preservation. Although many patients want to pursue fertility preservation, financial costs pose a significant obstacle, preventing many from accessing this technology. MSK believes that having cancer should not preclude someone from having biological children. Passage of S3148 (Savino) / A2646 (Simotas) would enable our patients and others across New York State to have access to these important services.

For the above reasons, MSK strongly supports the enactment of S3148 (Savino) / A2646 (Simotas). Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Elisabeth Mayer, Director, State and Local Legislative Affairs (mayer@mskcc.org / 646-227-2203).