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UNDERSTAND PREVENT  
& CURE CANCER

## Roswell Park Cancer Institute

### Memorandum of Support A.2646 (Simotas)/ S.3148 (Savino) The Fair Access to Fertility Treatment Act

Roswell Park Cancer Institute located in Buffalo, New York and the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in Upstate New York, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this legislation that 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.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute treats many patients each day who struggle with infertility after their cancer treatment. This is especially true for adolescent and young adult patients who face a higher probability of becoming infertile from the effects of the treatment for the cancer. In fact, over 10% of the nation's cancer patients are in their reproductive years. Finding ways to have biological children one day is an important part of planning for their life after cancer.

Modern medicine has come a long way for those hoping to have biologic children. Preserving fertility through freezing eggs, embryos and sperm before initiation of chemotherapy and using in-vitro fertilization (IVF) helps cancer survivors to successfully conceive children. However, planning for future fertility or trying to conceive after treatment comes at a cost. While insurance covers the treatment and effects of cancer, fertility preservation and most infertility treatments are not covered. Patients who are already burdened with a life threatening medical emergency, medical bills or income loss because of their illness must pay these costs out of pocket. For many these costs are prohibitive, and future fertility is left to chance. These costs also often keep doctors from suggesting preservation and patients from seeing it as a viable option.

There are some patients who even delay or forego treatment while trying for a family, putting themselves and a fetus at greater risk.

Roswell Park Cancer Institute supports this legislation which would enable cancer patients the opportunity to access important fertility and fertility preservation services.