

# THE CENTER

*Memo in support of The Fair Access to Fertility Treatment Act A.2646 (Simotas) / S.3148 (Savino)*

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center (The Center) was founded in 1983 at the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis. Thirty years later, The Center continues to meet the needs of an ever-changing community and help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals live healthy and successful lives. Each week, 6,000 unique individuals from across all five boroughs visit The Center. Our programming and services are created to address the specific challenges members of our community face, and include family programming and career advancement programming for lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.

New York is one of only 14 states that requires that insurance companies to have at least one plan that covers infertility treatments. However, even with this allowance, current law does not specifically require coverage for in-vitro fertilization, more commonly known as IVF. For many women, IVF is an incredibly costly but necessary part of family planning, without which they are unable to conceive. Lesbian, bisexual and single women face a unique need in regards to IVF.

The Fair Access to Fertility Treatment Act would require insurance coverage for IVF for large group policies, thereby expanding access to this treatment. The bill includes specific protections for lesbian and bisexual women, who face family-building obstacles specific to their sexual orientation; that is, they may be trying to conceive without a male partner. Like women who suffer from clinical infertility, lesbian and bisexual women are financially burdened by the high out of pocket costs when IVF is not covered by their insurance policy. For many families, this is yet another hurdle they must face on the road to building their family.

To obtain IVF through their insurance companies, this bill requires women to obtain a diagnosis of infertility from a licensed physician after failing to become pregnant after 12 months of regular, unprotected intercourse. Of particular importance to The Center, this bill now recognizes the reproductive realities that non-heterosexual couples and single women face, and allows a physician to make a non-medical determination of infertility as well. This reduces the burden and stigma that single, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women face in trying to start their families, easing the emotional hardship that this process can create.

New York has a long history of championing the needs of its underserved communities, including the LGBT community. It should now serve as a leader when it comes to providing fair access to IVF by all women in need.

For the above reasons, The Center urges the Legislature to pass this bill.

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &  
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER**  
208 W 13 ST NEW YORK, NY 10011

T. 212.620.7310  
F. 212.924.2657  
gaycenter.org