

Dear House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee Members,

My name is Bailey Huepenbecker and I am from Burnsville, Minnesota. I am a volunteer with Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE) and am writing to express my strong support for HF 1758.

FORCE is a leading nonprofit for people at risk for hereditary cancer, providing trusted information, support and advocacy. The majority of our constituents carry an inherited genetic mutation, like a BRCA mutation or Lynch Syndrome, that significantly increases their risk of cancers, including breast, colorectal, endometrial, ovarian, prostate, pancreatic and gastric cancers.

Through my work as a student and healthcare professional, I have seen how devastating it can be for individuals to face cancer or a high-risk diagnosis while also confronting the possibility of losing their ability to have biological children. National medical guidelines often recommend risk-reducing surgeries, such as the removal of ovaries and fallopian tubes, to prevent life-threatening cancers. Similarly, cancer treatments like chemotherapy and radiation can cause infertility. In these situations, fertility preservation is often the only option for patients who hope to have biological children in the future.

Fertility preservation offers hope, but these services are often not covered by insurance. Without coverage, the cost can be prohibitive, forcing many to give up on the possibility of building a family. This is especially difficult for young adults, who often learn about hereditary cancer risks before they've had the chance to start families. With cancer survival rates for young people around 85%, it is critical that we also support their quality of life after treatment, including the ability to have children.

Importantly, Minnesota would not be alone in taking this step. More than 20 states have already enacted laws requiring insurance coverage for fertility preservation for patients facing infertility due to medical treatment. States such as California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, New Hampshire, and New York have recognized the importance of this care and have passed legislation to ensure access ([Resolve, 2026](#)).

HF 1758 would bring our state in line with this growing national standard and ensure that patients facing cancer or hereditary cancer risk are not denied the chance to build a family due to financial barriers. No one should have to choose between life-saving care and the chance to have a family.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HF 1758.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bailey Huepenbecker

Patient Advocate Leader
Burnsville, Minnesota