



MEDICAL DIRECTORS

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March 1, 2016

Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
Connecticut House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: House Bill 5230**  
**Position: Strong Support**

Dear Representatives,

The California Cryobank (CCB) strongly supports HB 5230: An act requiring health insurance coverage for fertility preservation for insureds diagnosed with cancer and are grateful for your leadership on this issue.

A positive consequence of this bill is reducing the adverse health outcomes of those who do not have access to fertility preservation services prior to treatment. Those patients often choose less effective forms of treatment in their attempt to protect their fertility or delay treatment altogether to pursue parenthood. These adverse outcomes, such as death, cost the state and medical system far more than fertility preservation services.

Research also proves cancer survivors left infertile score far worse on quality of life measures and seek treatment for depression more often. Further, the majority of these patients are being sterilized against their will because only half of oncologists discuss fertility risk with their patients. Until we institutionalize fertility preservation as part of the cancer continuum, by including insurance coverage, just as we do for every single other cancer treatment side effect, we will continue to sterilize patients against their will, since oncologists routinely report they do not discuss fertility risk when insurance does not cover it.

CCB, like so many others, offers financial aid to cancer patients the medical system is failing. It's time insurers stop discriminating against these patients and offer them preventative care to ensure they can become parents in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [acrisci@cryobank.com](mailto:acrisci@cryobank.com) or 310-496-5665.

Sincerely,

Alice Crisci  
Government Affairs and Patient Advocacy  
California Cryobank

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