



March 11, 2021

The Honorable Tom Oliverson, Chairman
House Insurance Committee
1100 Congress Ave
Room E2. 150
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chair Oliverson and Members of the Committee,

The Texas Society of Clinical Oncology (TxSCO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to support **House Bill 293: Relating to health benefit coverage for certain fertility preservation services under certain health benefit plans**, which would provide coverage for fertility preservation services for patients with cancer when necessary medical treatments may cause infertility. The House Insurance Committee's passage of HB 293 would be a crucial step in helping to make Texas the 11th state to provide this important protection for patients with cancer.

TxSCO is a powerful community of oncologists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals who provide a voice for multidisciplinary cancer care teams and the patients they serve. TxSCO's mission is to serve the needs of oncology providers in order to ensure delivery of the highest quality of compassionate cancer care. ASCO is a national organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 45,000 members, our core mission is to ensure that cancer patients have meaningful access to high quality cancer care.

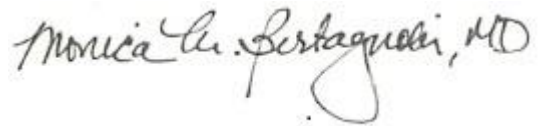
TxSCO and ASCO believe that as part of education and informed consent before cancer therapy, health care providers should address the possibility of infertility with both male and female patients treated during their reproductive years. Providers should also be prepared to discuss fertility preservation options and/or refer all potential patients to appropriate reproductive specialists. As such, TxSCO and ASCO advocate for coverage of embryo, oocyte and sperm cryopreservation procedures for an insured patient who is at least eighteen years of age and has been diagnosed with cancer but has not started cancer treatment (including chemotherapy, biotherapy or radiation therapy treatment) in accordance with [guidelines](#) developed by our affiliate organization, the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

We encourage providers to advise patients regarding potential threats to fertility as early as possible in the treatment process to allow for the widest array of options for fertility preservation. TxSCO and ASCO strongly support HB 293 and encourage the committee to pass it to provide coverage of fertility preservation procedures for cancer patients. If you have questions or would like assistance on any issue involving the care of individuals with cancer, please contact Debra Patt at debra.patt@usoncology.com or Aaron Segel at ASCO at aaron.segel@asco.org.

Sincerely,



Debra Patt, MD, PhD, MBA
President
Texas Society of Clinical Oncology



Monica Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO
President
Association for Clinical