

Dear Committee Chairwoman and Committee Members-

My name is Jim Kingston and I reside in Providence. I am writing in FULL SUPPORT of Senate bill 2460 for my spouse Jessie and myself.

A year ago I wrote that Jessie's and my knowledge and involvement with fertility services are a result of both of our daughters' difficulties with fertility. Our older daughter experienced over 7 years of 5 natural, 4 IVF and 2 surrogate miscarriages, along with enormous emotional and mental health turmoil associated with that lengthy process. They now have a healthy 5 month old boy who was carried and delivered by their 2nd surrogate. The costs of their journey are enormous as I outlined last year and would not have been possible without some assistance with covered services mandated by their state ( not RI).

Our younger daughter also suffered miscarriages over an extended period of time yet now have a healthy 2-1/2 year old daughter delivered via IVF treatment.

Senator Mack's bill 2460 does a particularly good job related to covering at least 4 retrievals and unlimited transfers, as well as for those using a surrogate to start their family.

Both of our daughters have said that without mandated insurance coverage, they would not have been able to start a family. Both of our daughters have said that their coverage limited the number of retrievals and transfers which would be covered, causing them significant out-of-pocket costs. **Both of our daughters asked that we stress that we couldn't possibly overstate the stress and emotional turmoil of the rollercoaster they endured to be at the point where they both have healthy babies.**

As we said last year, Jessie and I want to live in a state which does all that it can to support all people and couples in starting or expanding a family. This Committee will have the enduring thanks and appreciation of countless Rhode Island residents and their loved ones by voting to move 2460 out of Committee and on to the full Senate for a vote. Thank you for your consideration.