



Massachusetts Society of  
Clinical Oncologists



November 9, 2021

Senator Brendan Crighton  
Representative James Murphy  
Chairs, Joint Committee on Financial Services  
Massachusetts General Court  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Chairs Crighton, Murphy, and Members of the Joint Committee on Financial Services,


The Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists (MSCO) and the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) are pleased to **support H. 1116/S. 640: An Act relative to preserving fertility**. Committee passage of H. 1116/S. 640 would be a crucial step in helping to make Massachusetts the 11<sup>th</sup> state to provide this important protection for patients with cancer.


MSCO is a statewide organization representing oncologists and physicians who provide care for cancer patients. Founded in 1985, the Society is dedicated to improving cancer care and treatment. ASCO is the world's leading professional society 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.

MSCO 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, MSCO 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. MSCO and ASCO strongly support H. 1116/S. 640 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 Aaron Segel at [aaron.segel@asco.org](mailto:aaron.segel@asco.org) or Dr. Kala Seetharaman at [kala.seetharaman@mwmc.com](mailto:kala.seetharaman@mwmc.com).

Sincerely,

  
Kala Seetharaman, MD  
President  
Massachusetts Society of Clinical Oncologists

  
Howard A. Burris III, MD, FACP, FASCO  
Chairman of the Board  
Association for Clinical Oncology