# Utah Alliance to Protect Parenthood After Cancer Treatments

Support HJR 8, Joint Resolution For Fertility Preservation Coverage, sponsored by Representative Ward, that will provide fertility preservation services to Utah public employees and their family members with cancer.

The Utah Cancer Registry estimates 1,579 Utahns ages 15-39 are diagnosed with cancer annually.

## **ALLIANCE MEMBERS**

Alliance for Fertility Preservation

American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

Association for Clinical Oncology

Huntsman-Intermountain Adolescent and Adult Cancer Program

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

RESOLVE

Society of Utah Medical Oncologists

Susan G. Komen

Utah Academy of Family Physicians

**Utah Fertility Resource Center** 

University of Utah Health

University of Utah Huntsman Cancer Institute

Several Private Citizens



## THE NEED

- Some cancer treatments can directly or indirectly cause medically induced infertility.
- Chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery can damage gametes (eggs and sperm), reproductive organs, and/or endocrine function; they may also impact the ability to carry a pregnancy.
- Because the damage is caused by treatments and not the disease, it can affect patients with many types of cancer.
- Infertility is not merely a medical complication; it permanently affects reproduction and parenthood – fundamental life functions worthy of the highest levels of protection.

### THE CHALLENGE

- Patients facing infertility have recognized, effective options for preserving fertility, but the high cost is often a barrier. Expenses can range from several hundred dollars for sperm banking to approximately \$15,000 for egg banking.
- Without insurance coverage, these standard treatments are unaffordable for many patients.
- Patients often have a short window of time to obtain the resources necessary to preserve fertility before starting potentially sterilizing cancer treatment.

#### THE SOLUTION

- Pass HJR8 that directs PEHP (state employee plans) to cover fertility preservation services to Utah public employees and their families with cancer.
- Cover standard fertility preservation services as defined by established medical practices or professional guidelines published by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) or the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).
- Encourage individual, group and employer health benefit plans to voluntarily cover fertility preservation services adult cancer patients.