**Advocacy Committee Minutes, 11/1/23**

Attendees: Kate LeBlanc, Molly Sullivan, Janene Oleaga, Shelly Kidron

We began with introductions.

We discussed Maine's rulemaking process for the fertility insurance law. We just received notice yesterday that the Insurance department will reopen a public comment period until December 15, 2023. This is very frustrating. One silver lining is that Janene will submit comments this time. We have heard that insurance companies have still been including fertility coverage in their policies even without finalized rules.

* **Janene will share draft comments with Kate by December 1st.**
* **Kate will follow up again with Insurance department to confirm that the law will still take effect January 1, 2024.**
* **Kate will post on the Maine FB advocacy group to request insurance policy documents, and Janene will try to get a copy of hers (Progyny).**
* **RNE will add info about the confirmatory adoption law on our website.**

We discussed our advocacy in Massachusetts, which has been very busy. RNE testified basically every Tuesday since late September. The Mass. Parentage Act will be the last one (still not scheduled), which will be heard in Judiciary committee. Every MA bill needs to have its hearing by February.

Our bill is still alive in Vermont (the last state in New England to pass a fertility insurance law). Earlier this month Kate met with our lobbyist Allison Crowley, and she said the bill will be even harder to pass this session because the legislature will be focused on the catastrophic flooding VT experienced this summer. But we of course will still work hard on this. Allison will likely plan some pre-session meetings for RNE. Kate is also meeting with former Lt. Gov and former Congressional candidate Molly Gray tomorrow. She is parenting a baby boy after fertility struggles (which she recently shared publicly).

Each New England state has an advocacy page on our website: https://resolvenewengland.org/advocacy/

Next meeting: December 6, 7pm on Zoom.