



Michiganders' stories
on why access to
contraception and IVF
is important to them

DETROIT REGION

Adam W. • Wayne

"IVF is possibly one of the only ways my partner and I will be able to conceive. We have both had trouble conceiving and this is becoming one of our only options. Access to this is imperative to both us and the state of Michigan. Giving people the options to have a family and raise them in this beautiful state will only help both the community and the economy."

Adam R. • Oakland

"I have 2 beautiful daughters as a result of 6 rounds of IVF!"

Alyssa L. • Wayne

"My husband and I are blessed to have our little miracle IVF baby named Olivia. Our princess is now 1.5 years old and has been just the missing piece we needed in our lives. We have been battling with infertility for 7 years which contained a rollercoaster of emotions. Seeing families post pregnancy announcements, baby shower pictures, first day of school pictures, bump pictures and so many others were so incredibly hard to see and swallow. Lets not even mention the Mothers Day and Fathers Day holidays. Infertility is one condition i would not wish upon any individual/couple because this impacts one in more ways than one: Emotional, Mental and Physical Health. We remember going to Target and purposely avoided the baby section, because we could only hope and dream. IVF was never really on our mind when we were in our TTC(trying to conceive) journey because it is so expensive and not many insurance companies offer coverage. We were initially quoted \$25,000 for ONE round of IVF that does not guarantee a live birth/positive pregnancy. Infertility and IVF is not talked enough and definitely needs awareness, no one should have to suffer through this alone. Thankfully we found a clinic that offered a 60 % discount of IVF for patients with no infertility coverage. We were blessed with 3 embryos that were cyropreserved and transferred our princess on 12/16/21. If it werent for IVF, we would never have been able to start our family on our own. We're so blessed and thankful for the advanced medical technology that allowed our dreams to become parents come true."

Amanda M. • St. Clair

I have an IVF baby. My daughter was conceived March 25 2022, she was frozen for 6 months before transferred where she grew and I was blessed to bring her earth side 5/14/23. After 8 years of being told I had PCOS and finding out that we were male factor. Without IVF, my husband and I would never had been able to conceive."

Amandalynn P. • Wayne

"I have infertility issues and although it is hard for me to get pregnant on my own - I am done having children so I know that I don't want anymore. I want that choice in case one day I decided differently, I could change my mind."

Andrea B. • Oakland

"Access to contraception is important to me so that I can choose whether to expand my family or not. My husband and I feel we are complete with two kids, so I want to do what I can to prevent another pregnancy. In addition, birth control has helped me with my irregular and heavy cycle, so that I am no longer anemic. It is important for my health to continue on birth control even though my husband could get a vasectomy."

Andrea C. • Wayne

"IVF is extraordinarily important to me and our family. We struggled with infertility for 5 years, attempting every holistic avenue including but not limited to; acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapy, meditation, energy healing, yoga, massage. While all of those modalities helped significantly with my mental and physical health, it did not produce a baby. We tried timed intercourse for months and months on end-no avail. Eventually, we turned to eastern medicine and started with IUI, I had a chemical pregnancy but lost it within the first 2 weeks and no further success with this avenue. The opportunity presented itself to go the IVF route, we took it gladly. After multiple injections, oral medications, a few outpatient surgeries, we were able to retrieve 18 eggs, 16 were mature, 14 fertilized, and 10 made it through initial incubation. We were able to transfer 2 of our best embryos and 1 implanted into my uterus (that was prepped and monitored closely). We were able to have a successful and healthy baby as a result. Baby Sam is our greatest gift this world has to offer and we honored to be his parents. Without IVF, our family wouldn't be the family it is today. I will forever be grateful for science, medical practitioners, and the FREEDOM we were given to experience this life changing event. We still have 8 frozen embryos, "chillin" in Bloomfield Hills."

Angela B. • Oakland

"My son is the result of in vitro fertilization. After many years of battling endometriosis and losing my fallopian tubes, IVF was my only hope to become a mother. My son will be graduating high school this spring 😊"

Blair P. • Macomb

"My husband and I lucky to have 2.5 year old son, and struggled to conceive for almost 2 years. When we wanted to grow our family once again, we tried for another 1.5 years but the medications that helped us the first time around did not work. We decided to work with the IVF clinic, which was a scary and big decision, and I cannot imagine going through the stress of it while also facing the potential of a criminal lawsuit. We were blessed to become pregnant with twins, who will be joining us this July :)"

Brittany G. • Oakland

"IVF is critically important to me and my family. I was diagnosed with PCOS at the age of 16... Fourteen years later, my husband and I started trying for a family. A year went by with no success. My doctor recommended doing medicated cycles. (Medicated cycles are where they use a drug like clomid or letrozole to encourage you to ovulate. It is used as a chemo medication, so generally you are only allowed to do six rounds before it is determined to be unhelpful. The medication can cause ovarian cysts, which if ruptured could cause damage.) Six medicated cycles went by quickly, and it was determined that I never once ovulated. I was referred to a Reproductive Endocrinologist, who recommended IVF. Thankfully, I worked for a company who provided IVF coverage. Our first round was unsuccessful, they were able to harvest 13 eggs but none made it to frozen embryos. Putting our faith back into doctor, we did one more round. This time we ended up with 14 frozen embryos. We transferred one embryo and in October our daughter was born. We are so incredibly grateful to all of the medical staff that made this happen. We are also very concerned as we have 13 more frozen embryos. We do want to grow our family again, and Alabama's court ruling was an emotional moment for us. Those poor families having to pause treatment, when there is no pause in IVF."

Carrie H. • Washtenaw

"My 15yo twins were conceived via IVF. They are the most amazing gift and I can't imagine life without them. It is ludicrous to think that anyone would want to take this away."

Cindy M. • Oakland

"I tried for 20 years to get pregnant, Without IVF at 45, my son would not have been possible."

Colleen M. • Macomb

"We have 2 daughters because of IVF and currently have 2 more embryos frozen in an ivf clinic in Maine that we're planning to try soon. (We were living in Maine at the time). We couldn't have had any children without IVF and I couldn't imagine our lives without the (VERY EXPENSIVE) gift of ivf. "

Dana W. • Oakland

"Our first child was through IVF after struggling to conceive and being diagnosed with unexplained infertility."

Diana G. • Oakland

"We would not have our (going to be shortly) 21 year old twins without IVF. After pursuit of higher education and the ideal spouse, we were in our 30's with unexplained infertility."

Donna D. • St. Clair

"Yes I had a procedure called (gift) to get pregnant with my son who will be 25 the end of the month. By not allowing these procedures you are taking our society backwards. If it wasn't for the help of the medical field I would not have 25 years of beautiful memories with my son."

Emily M. • Oakland

"Due to multiple small issues for both my husband and I, we haven't been able to conceive naturally. IVF has been the only solution that has worked for us after years of trying and failing. Our son is the light of our lives and the product of an IVF procedure. We are currently in the cycle to hopefully give him a sibling soon!"

Greg S. • Washtenaw

"IVF is at the very heart of my family. My wife and I have been actively using IVF services for over 5 years. We began seeing practitioners as we were having difficulty conceiving as early as 2018. We had our daughter in late 2019 after a successful pregnancy resulting from IUI and hormonal injections. We did several rounds of IVF in 2021, harvesting eggs 3 or 4 times, doing unsuccessful implantations, having 2 miscarriages, and finally resulting in our 2nd child being born in 2023 via a spontaneous pregnancy (after all that!!!). We still have 2 viable embryos frozen a few miles from our house. IVF has been the source of some of the highest highs and lowest lows of our emotional journey together. It is a difficult and challenging process. It is personal, emotional, invasive process and it is very difficult to manage, navigate, and afford and that's assuming good healthcare, good insurance, and NO government meddling. To add another source of restrictions, headache, hurdles, emotional challenges is not just cruel and unnecessary but also economically disadvantageous to society and an additional source of inequality.

Erica B. • Oakland

"IVF access is extremely important to me as it's the only way I am able to have a child. I have a son, age 2, who I had via a frozen embryo transfer and am planning to do a transfer with our second embryo this fall. I have endometriosis, which would never have been diagnosed had I not found my amazing IVF doctor. Due to endometriosis, I have had to have several surgeries and procedures in order to treat the disease and help me have children. Outside of my own story, I believe it is the right of all couples to be able to have children if they want them, such as members of our LGBTQ community. As a healthcare provider, I think science is amazing and am already teaching my son his birth story through children's books that describe IVF."

Jeff L. • Washtenaw

"I have two beautiful, twin daughters, who were conceived using the IVF treatment."

Jessica K. • Macomb

"If it weren't for IVF, my husband and I wouldn't have our beautiful blessing of a son, William. Back in January 2020 we found out after years of trying that we couldn't conceive naturally. What a devastating truth to be told when all you have dreamed of was having a family of your own. We tried anything and everything our doctors recommended, even tried suggestions from friends and family. Nothing worked. We were devastated. We finally went to a specialist, who ran tests and procedures, and he told us we would have a 2% chance of conceiving naturally. 2... yes 2 percent. It was basically impossible for it to happen. My heart shattered into a million pieces.

Long story short, we went through 3 embryo transfers, and transferred a total of 6 embryos and only 1 survived. We still have a few embryos frozen for when we do our next attempt. I went through countless blood draws, 4 hysteroscopies, and had 176 injections throughout that time.

All of that being said, I would do it again because it resulted in my son's birth. We will be forever thankful and indebted to our IVF clinic for all that they did for us to help us achieve our dream.."

Jessica W. • Wayne

"IVF brought us our second and third sons. Without IVF, we would not have been able to have more children. We went through our first IVF cycle almost 10 years ago, and even still not a day goes by that I don't appreciate and think about the miraculous but difficult IVF journey that brought us to them. I often think of IVF as a rollercoaster and it was so hard and so worth it."

Joseph T. • Monroe

"IVF gave me and my wife our twin daughters. It's important that every family that struggles with infertility has the option to a chance."

Julie B. • Wayne

"I am a former IVF patient. While it ended up not resulting in a live birth for us, we had six embryos, four of which were healthy enough to be implanted (two of which did but then resulted in miscarriages). We had to decide what to do with the two non-viable embryos and were grateful to have some choice in what to do with them. Ours were donated for medical research, which gave us a bit of hope that they could help with advancements in medical science."

Kathryn G. • Oakland

"IVF is very important to me and my family. At 25, I had my tubes tied because we couldn't stop getting pregnant, despite using birth control. Between the year 2000 and 2006, I was pregnant 7 times; I gave birth to 4 babies (one of which died at 3 1/2 months old) and had 3 miscarriages.

Nine years later, my husband and I decided we wanted to have more children. I got a tubal reversal and over the following 5 years, I had 5 miscarriages. For some reason I could get pregnant but I couldn't stay pregnant.

We decided to go to a fertility clinic to see if we could figure out what was going on. It turned out that my husband had terrible sperm and was essentially infertile. If it wasn't for how fertile I was, we never would have been able to get pregnant. The doctor was actually amazed that I was able to get pregnant, let alone so many times. We were told since I had had 8 miscarriages over the years, it was mostly likely caused by genetic defects in my husband's sperm and the only way to ensure that we could have more children was to do IVF and test the embryos for genetic abnormalities.

We went through the process and I had 8 eggs retrieved, 6 of which fertilized, and only 3 of those survived until day 5 of development. The embryos were tested and it was determined that 2 were normal and healthy, but the third had a genetic abnormality that was incompatible with life.

We transferred the first embryo and I was watched very closely and had to take a lot of hormone medications to support the pregnancy and ensure that it was successful. Amazingly, we had a beautiful, healthy baby girl. A few years later, we decided to try transferring the other healthy embryo, and miraculously, we had another beautiful, healthy baby girl.

Without IVF, we would not have our two daughters. We are eternally grateful that we had the medicine, knowledge, and access to the necessary treatment we needed to complete our family. We would be devastated if we did not have that chance. We want that opportunity to continue to be available for other people who are trying to complete their own families.

Kathleen B. • Oakland

"I work closely with reproductive endocrinologists and fertility clinics in SE Michigan. I have personally witnessed what my patients have gone through on their fertility journeys. Having access to IVF helped them get pregnant after months and years of not being able to conceive naturally, history of repeated miscarriages, PCOS, endometriosis, low ovarian reserve, advanced maternal age, hormone imbalances and many other underlying causes to infertility. IVF with Acupuncture treatments increases the chance of conception and live births."

Kimberly W. • St. Clair

"I had both of my children through IVF. I tried naturally for many years and couldn't get pregnant. I tried many rounds of artificial insemination and it didn't work. I have severe stage 4 endometriosis, hypothyroidism, and a blood clotting disorder and even after cleaning my endometriosis up... I still couldn't get pregnant naturally. I did 3 different embryo transfers and I had 2 babies. IVF is very important to me and my extended family also."

Lauren B. • Livingston

"IVF is a hugely important resource for people who want to become pregnant but can't do so naturally. With my PCOS diagnosis in my early thirties, I was told it would be highly unlikely that I would conceive naturally. I've never wanted anything more than to be a mother, and this was heartbreaking to hear. We were referred to an excellent fertility doctor who guided us along the IVF path. I was very lucky to become pregnant after my first embryo transfer and have a beautiful son. When we decided to try again, we had two failed transfers, but were very lucky to still have an extremely supportive doctor looking out for both of our wellbeing, as well as her beyond dedicated nursing staff. Our next attempt was stalled, and we had to start from scratch. Thankfully, we were finally successful and I'm currently 15 weeks pregnant. I couldn't be happier. I am so thankful for everyone in the practice who helped and supported us along the way. IVF isn't easy, but for people struggling to conceive naturally, it is so, so important for them to have access to this tough, but hopefully rewarding process."

Lori H. • Detroit

"We have done two rounds of IVF. We are still trying and plan on doing another round in April or May. This is important, because we want to have a child and this is the only Healthcare that can achieve that goal. We want a child and we have fertility problems. IVF is healthcare."

Megan S. • Oakland

"I have 3 children. We had a long journey to get them. 5 IVF cycles and countless procedures and surgeries. IVF was our only option for us to get pregnant. I can only imagine how stressed and worried future parents are! I would not have my children without IVF and Donors."

Michael D. • Oakland

"My wife nearly died from an ectopic pregnancy, and in the process of dealing with and recovering from that experience I found out that a lot of women have experience with miscarriage and don't talk about it due to social stigma. I want that social stigma to go away so that women can be safer, and if access to health care options like contraception is legislated away, it's basically encoding that stigma for another generation."

Miranda M. • Macomb

"IVF is the only thing that has saved my ability to reproduce and given me hope that I will have a family some day. At 32 years old, 2 months after our wedding, and just 5 months before we were going to start trying for a family, I was diagnosed with triple positive breast cancer. The first thing they told me was that I absolutely cannot get pregnant during treatment, then they told me my fertility was at risk due to all the treatment. We immediately started working with an IVF doctor and our friends and family rallied with us so that we could afford the very unplanned for procedure. We now rely on the cryostorage to keep our embryos safe while we wait for it to be safe for my body to go through pregnancy, which will be at least 2 more years. Without access to IVF we would have lost all hope of having our own family and I may have cared a little less about getting through my treatments."

Rachel S. • Oakland

"I was married in May 2022. We were ecstatic and expecting by September 2022. At 6 weeks, I had a miscarriage. I found out via ultras when there was no heartbeat. I then had 2 D&Cs two weeks apart due to a tumor growing in my uterus from placenta cells duplicating. I sobbed when the hospital required me sign a death certificate due to the fall of Roe v Wade. I was diagnosed shortly after with Uterine Cancer and had chemo treatments from November 2022 through April 2023. I'm currently being monitored monthly by my oncologist to be sure I remain NED (No evidence of disease.) In January 2023 we started looking into surrogacy because I did not know if I'll ever be able to carry a child after all of this. Thankfully, I had completed 4 rounds of egg retrievals in 2020-2021 not knowing that I'd actually need them. We went through the fertilization process and had our embryos pgt-a tested. We researched agencies and talked to potential carriers outside of the state due to the terribly outdated Michigan laws, when out of the blue one day my friend in Michigan of over 23 years offered to carry for us. We are currently expecting via surrogate and are due June 2nd (maybe May.) It hasn't been an easy road navigating our laws. We just celebrated the PBO we were granted in Oakland County thanks to our lawyer and a surrogacy friendly judge. I hope that we can preserve the right to IVF and support surrogacy as a means of making families into the future. We want nothing more than to be parents and yet life has dictated that it's not safe for me to carry now or possibly into the future."

Paul W. • Wayne

"Myself and my wife are an IVF case. We tried everything for past years, fortunately IVF works. We had a boy and we are having another kid this year. We think IVF makes our family life complete. We appreciate it."

Suzanne R. • Oakland

"With both male and female factors infertility, it would have been highly unlikely that we would conceive a child without medical intervention, and IVF in particular. Our first child was conceived on our fifth round of IVF. When we wanted to add to our family we tried another round with our remaining frozen embryos but were unsuccessful. We then did three more rounds with my eggs and ultimately had success (twins!) using donor eggs. We have several frozen embryos from the donor's eggs. We may choose to donate them to another family in need one day or we may choose to destroy them. Either way, this is a private matter and should be our decision alone."

Taylor R. • Genesee

"I've never used IVF to have children but I did donate some of my own eggs so that couples who cannot conceive on their own could have a chance at a family of their own. It was an incredibly rewarding experience to do something so selfless for others. It also helped me to understand the struggle some face to have a precious baby. No one should be denied the right to donate to, or use IVF, with the intention of welcoming more precious human lives onto this Earth."

Tiffany W. • Oakland

"IVF (and surrogacy) is the only way for us to have a family. My husband and I got married when I was 31, started trying for a family right away, and no luck. I went through 4 rounds of IVF egg retrievals, never to get pregnant. We went on to using a donor in Michigan, and this young lady gave us the only hope of having a family. We looked into adoption too, but people do not understand how difficult (and expensive with no assurances) it is to adopt. I was able to get pregnant using a donor egg, but then miscarried even though the embryo was normal. No one could tell me why I couldn't get pregnant, nor why I miscarried. I had to have a D&C in order to test the embryo. I even saw a reproduction immunologist (under 10 in the country) and still could not get pregnant. Now we are having to use another egg donor as well as a surrogate. Unfortunately, at this time, compensated surrogacy is still illegal in Michigan (hopefully not for much longer) so we had to ship our embryos to Indiana and find a surrogate located in Texas. We are about to go through our first transfer of an embryo to our surrogate on March 25th. Without access to IVF, none of this would be possible."

Terry M. • Wayne

"My daughter had IVF, she had multiple miscarriages before the IVF and even with the IVF she had a hard time giving birth. Little Thor came at 7 months and had to be sewn inside of her. It was a hard journey but now we have Thor who is 5 years old."

Traci M. • Oakland

"We are currently going through the IVF process to start our family, and without access to these medical procedures, we would likely be unable to have biological children. It's scary to think what could happen if this option is taken away or if there are legal consequences to storing or destroying embryos. The recent decision in Alabama has caused us pause in our fertility journey, for fear that this could impact us in Michigan, either through federal law, a Supreme Court case, or a change in the Michigan laws. Although I believe this was an unintended consequence of the anti-choice movement, this is preventing families who REALLY want children, from having them."

Victoria B. • Wayne

"My close friends and several family members have utilized IVF as their only way to have children."

Whitney F. • Genesee

"IVF allowed me to have a baby on my own as a single woman and gifted me the best gift in the world. A healthy and happy son who is now one year old. Without IVF, I wouldn't have been able to start a family on my own and the thought of that is excruciating."

GRAND RAPIDS REGION

Amber E. • Montcalm

"IVF is extremely important to me. If it wasn't for YEARS of IVF treatment I would not have my precious son. We have one embryo left and plan to attempt a transfer of that one for hopes of another sweet baby. If it wasn't for IVF I would have never gotten my dreams come true of becoming a mother. I would have been a miserable, depressed person and likely would have needed serious mental health treatment if I did not have access to IVF care. Keeping IVF accessible in Michigan is not only important for my future embryo transfer, but for anyone who needs or seeks assistance for any reason to build their family however they would like."

Carl C. • Kent

"Thanks to IVF we have two beautiful daughters❤️"

G. H. • Muskegon

"Some need help having a family. We have beautiful twin grand daughters thanks to IVF."

Jeremy M. • Isabella

"Yes, my daughter was born through IVF, it was the only way we could have a family. She is now 22 and an amazing woman!"

Mary S. • Kent

"Our daughter who is 24 was conceived via IVF. She has been a joy to our lives and can't imagine our family without her!"

Meagan W. • Kent

"IVF is near and dear to my heart. My two boys (2 & 5.5) are a result of IVF. I have PCOS and after years of trying to start a family, we met with the Fertility Center in Grand Rapids, MI. The team made our dream a reality. After failed attempts of IUI's and a few failed rounds of IVF, we were blessed with our beautiful boys. Without science, we would've never had a family of our own. I am forever grateful for IVF and access to fertility benefits through my company."

Nancy O. • Kent

"I have a beautiful 4 month old grand daughter thanks to the IVF process. Being a mother has always been the most important piece of my life. Without IVF, my daughter would have missed out on that experience. The total IVF grand children in my family is now 5, 5 future leaders that will solve world hunger, cure cancer and bring peace to our Nation."

Nicole A. • Ionia

"I relied on birth control to regulate my period for over 10 years. Before I started taking it, I would routinely miss school from such horrible period symptoms (that I would learn in my 20's was endometriosis, following a laparoscopy). My education, social interactions, and mental well-being were severely impacted every month, sometimes for 2 weeks at a time, and without birth control then- I don't know that I would have been able to graduate. After 2 miscarriages (at 24 and 33) and the not being able to get pregnant for the 9 years in-between, I went to a fertility center and started my IVF journey. Throughout the process, you need access to birth control to make sure you're able to have a safe, healthy pregnancy when it's the right time- because everything has to be so planned and you have to suspend your period at various points and NONE of that could be possible without birth control."

JACKSON REGION

Bryer S. • Lenawee

"The reason IVF is important to me is because as a Transgender man married to a Cisgender woman it will be the only way we will be able to have children! We both want a family that we can build from the ground up and having access to IVF gives us that option."

KALAMAZOO REGION

Amy T. • Calhoun

"Contraception is important to me because I need it for my PCOS. It helps regulate my hormone balances so that the testosterone in my body doesn't cause havoc in my body."

Bill M. • Berrien

"We had a very difficult time getting my wife's pregnancies to go to full term. We had 3 miscarriages trying to have our first child. Therefore, we decided to utilize IVF to improve our chances of having a child. We started the procures in 1990 and the results were that we had a healthy daughter in 1991. She has gone on to be an exceptional, kind and intelligent individual. She won a state title in Tennis her junior year and went on to graduate from Colorado State. Without IVF our lives and many others would have a hole in ours/their lives."

Courtney S. • St. Joseph

"I have friends who have biological children only because of the use of IVF. If we have the capability for wonderful, loving, and caring parents to bring children into the world, why would we deny them? Having a mother who was a children's foster care state of Michigan employee, I am familiar with the horrors some children face. It's comforting knowing there's a small balance to the world with children who are so incredibly wanted, perhaps one day all children will be treated with the same love and care as they must feel."

Jackie S. • Berrien

"I would not have my beautiful twin grandchildren had it not been for IVF."

Kacey S. • Calhoun

"When I did make the choice to try to have children with my husband, I got pregnant pretty quickly at the end of 2016. My January 21, 2017 (the day of the first Women's March), I was in the ER having my first miscarriage. By 2018, I'd had 3 unexplained miscarriages. With my third loss, I took mifepristone to help in passing the tissue. When it didn't work, I had to have a D&C. By the time my cycle was back and I was mentally ready to try again, covid started and my husband and I took a break from trying to weather that storm. When we did start trying again, it wasn't working. We tried fertility drugs and finally visited an IVF clinic in 2022. By this point, I was 38 years old and worried my chances to have children were dwindling by the minute. After a successful egg retrieval in October 2022, 1 embryo made it far enough and tested regularly. In the meantime, I had to have 2 surgeries to prepare my body for that embryo. In December 2023, the embryo was transferred and I'm now almost 16 weeks pregnant with our daughter. I'm scared every day that I could have another loss and if I don't, I'm scared for the future that awaits her. I want her to have more rights than I have now, not less."

Kristin P. • Berrien

"I am currently 36 weeks pregnant with a baby girl. My husband had a vasectomy 30 years ago, I am over 40, and I have a family history of some illnesses we'd like to avoid passing on. The best choice for us to have a child together was to use donated embryos. Because embryo donation is currently categorized as a tissue donation target than an adoption process, this allowed us to move through the process easily with our clinic. Our fertility clinic has a great donor program and the nurse helped walk us through every step. We were able to view profiles, select the embryo set that felt right for us, and then transfer an embryo. Our first transfer failed to give us a positive pregnancy test, but our second transfer was successful. Going through this process was so hard both physically and emotionally. I cannot imagine how much harder it would have been had we needed to go through red tape and worry about whether we would be blamed if the transfer failed or if there was miscarriage."

LaRissa H. • Kalamazoo

"After surgery at the age of 19 I was not longer able to have children on my own. Many years later my husband and I decided we wanted to raise children, and as a child of the foster care system myself I wanted to have a family that was related to me by blood and experience pregnancy. My children are a product of love and science."

Nicole C. • Kalamazoo

"We wouldn't have our beautiful daughter without IVF-she's almost 19 years old now. Our infertility story is long and beautiful and hard and bumpy and emotional and has a happy ending. I'm so grateful I was able to choose what was best for me, along with my husband and doctor. I'm grateful to the smart scientists who developed the technology. I still have frozen embryos. We adopted our son before our daughter was conceived; but after 3 attempts at IVF. I'm frustrated that access to IVF is even in question right now. Don't people realize it makes those conceived in this way feel like people think they shouldn't have been born? I have so many thoughts to share on this subject. Thank you to those who are working to protect IVF and women's health care in Michigan."

Sandra W. • Kalamazoo

"After years of infertility (much of it related to being a DES daughter) we underwent several rounds of IVF. We were successful with our second round only to lose our dear Matthew at 18 weeks. I spent 10 days in the hospital after spontaneous dilation of my cervix. I subsequently ruptured membranes and developed a fever and infection. Labor was induced. I have told my 3 adult kids that if this scenario played out today in many states, I likely would have died since my physician would not have been allowed to induce labor and delivery. It was heart wrenching. A few years before this had happened I learned that my great grandmother passed away after an illegal abortion in Kansas in the early 1900's. My great aunt who was 5 at the time shared the story after my grandfather's funeral. After hearing her story and her young father left with 3 children, I was reminded of why we need access to safe, legal abortion in this country."

Tom W. • Berrien

"I have 12-year-old twin daughters that were born via IVF and a surrogate."

Trystan S. • Berrien

"I am a testicular cancer patient who had sperm frozen before surgeries to keep the possibility of having children one day."

LANSING REGION

Ashleigh C. • Ingham

"Access to IVF is important to me and my husband as it is the only way we will ever be able to have another biological child with the help from a gestational carrier. Limiting access to IVF would keep us from growing our family."

Elizabeth F. • Shiawassee

"I have twins who were conceived using frozen embryo transfer, they are now 14 years old. "

Heather B. • Gratiot

"After using contraception to better time the start of a family, my husband and I found that we were unable to conceive naturally. After a year of trying and failing, based on the advise of my doctor, we may have conceived naturally after years of trying or we may never but that we met the definition of infertile. After multiple rounds of tests, and even more attempts with medications, it was determined that the issue was a lack of ovulation and the best chance for us to have the child we desperately wanted laid with artificial means for conceiving. It was decided that we should use a procedure known as GIFT where the mature egg and my husband's sperm were introduced back into the fallopian tubes. This would ensure that all the right pieces to the puzzle were in the right place for fertilization to occur. Throughout the journey leading to our aided conception, we were supported by doctors, nurses, social workers, lab technicians, and a loving family. We are among the lucky ones. Our first procedure worked and we became the proud parents of two healthy, loving, smart, funny, and caring boys who are now successful contributing members of our community. One is an elementary teacher, the other a manufacturing engineer and we couldn't be prouder of them. My husband and I believe, to this day, that without access to this medical technology and the procedures used, we would be like other family members, child-less and in some ways unfulfilled. I have 2 cousins who had similar stories, unable to conceive without fertility assistance. Luckily for one, they were able to conceive via IVF. Unfortunately the other was not. For all 3 of us, having the choice, the access, and the power to have control over our choices and potential outcomes put our lives in our hands."

Hillary B. • Shiawassee

"Having multiple reproductive disorders it is imperative to my future to have a family, we are currently doing all of the testing to see what my journey will entail but I hope to be able to use it and have a family one day."

Valorie S. • Ingham

"My daughter isa Disabled Veteran and because of one of her deployments to Iraq she has been affected by being stationed right next to the burning fields and sadly has some physical issues that is keeping her from conceiving. She and her husband had their consolation and plan to begin the steps needed to begin their IVF journey."

Jennifer G. • Eaton

"Our IVF journey isn't a typical IVF journey. My husband and I opted to embryo adoption. Our embryos were created in a lab out of state and when our donor family decided that their family was complete they put their remaining 2 embryos up for adoption. We were matched with them after years of infertility. Our first transfer brought so much joy as we found out we were pregnant. Sadly, we found out that our baby no longer had a heartbeat at our 12 week appointment. We were devastated and are still feeling that loss over a year later. We have one more embryo to use but needed time to mourn before we tried again. We love that collection of cells and have dreams of meeting the baby it might someday be, but we know that despite hopes, dreams and prayers that it may not happen. The doctors and our donor family should not have to fear legal action if our miracle does not happen. IVF needs to be protected, fertility treatment needs to be protected. Families deserve to grow and deserve to hope. As I sit here crying while I type this, my husband and I mourn for the families in Alabama who have had their treatment cancelled who have to put their hopes and dreams on hold. Our story isn't over yet and we are so thankful to live in Michigan where we can take the time we need to heal from our loss and know that soon we will have the chance to try again."

Krista R. • Ingham

"I have two beautiful daughters that were conceived with IVF. We were not able to safely get pregnant naturally because I have a completely blocked fallopian tube and another partially blocked fallopian tube. The risk of an ectopic pregnancy is far too great. All I ever wanted to be was a parent. We are forever grateful for access to the IVF procedure and how it gave us our beautiful miracle babies. Their lives are valuable. Our world and everyone who loves them is better because they are in it."

Michaela F. • Clinton

"I have Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS). I was placed on contraception as an early teenager to combat my PCOS symptoms and make my hormonal health balanced, which affects what seems every aspect of life. As my husband and I are now trying to start a family, I will always stand by the fact that contraception is used for more than pregnancy prevention. It should remain a basic healthcare choice that every woman has the right to."

SAGINAW REGION

Darla S. • Saginaw

"IVF is extremely important!! Without it I wouldn't have been able to be a mother. My IVF son is 18 now and he is amazing.. it was my only option after having 2 tubal surgeries because of endometriosis which were not successful. I was very high risk of having a tubal pregnancy. So, I made the decision in my early 20s to get my fallopian tubes removed, knowing I had IVF when the time was right for me is what got me through the feeling of being a "broken" woman."

Rachel S. • Alcona

"It is important to my husband and I because we have 2 beautiful children only because of IVF. We tried to start a family for over 8 years and were not successful until we did IVF twice. The process was our only option."

Roseanna C. • Saginaw

"Yes it is important to me, as my oldest sister had to wait until she was in her 40's before she was able to get IVF and have her first, wonderful little boy, who is now a responsible adult with 2 beautiful children of his own. She lived on a farm and saw animals getting IVF frequently, to improve the line of livestock they had and I am sure she wondered, back in the '50's why people couldn't be helped in the same way to conceive."

Emily K. • Iosco

"[My] 11 year old twins were conceived using in vitro fertilization. Without access to this technology, my husband and I would have been unable to expand our family."

Kathleen W. • Midland

"Yes I went through IVF America in NY. I was 38 years old and I got pregnant on my first round. They extracted 11 eggs from me and fertilized them all from my husband. 4 were considered viable and implanted. I was aware I was pregnant about 30 days later. I would like to have been able to freeze eggs, but IVF did not consider any of my embryo's viable for another round. I would not have my 27 year old son if I had not gone through IVF."

Sarah A. • Saginaw

"I previously went through an abusive marriage and during that time I had opted to have a tubal ligation to prevent further pregnancy with this person. After a long period of counseling and support from my family I left the marriage. I have since remarried and am enjoying a healthy relationship with a wonderful man. He has no children. We have been exploring options for conception and the safest route would be to pursue IVF treatment. If access to IVF becomes limited we would not be able to extend our family and while I have children of my own, my heart would break for my husband who would be denied the opportunity."

TRAVERSE CITY REGION

Kimberly J. • Grand Traverse

"IVF gave us our family. I am a physician with 3 children thanks to IVF technology."

Sally D. • Charlevoix

"I've endured 3 IVF procedures and have one son. It's not something I wish for any couple, but due to damage from endometriosis, it was my only alternative. The expense set my ability to retire back by many years. Thank you, governor, for working on keeping IVF available in Michigan."

Tiffany B. • Charlevoix

"If there is a struggle to conceive and one wants to have a child I feel they should have the scientific help they deserve. Yes, I had IUI for the first and IVF for my second pregnancy resulting in twins. The struggle to naturally conceive gets heartbreaking and the help we got enlighten my life! I have 3 beautiful precious daughters whom are my life!"

UPPER PENINSULA REGION

Cynthia S. • Gogebic

"If IVF wasn't available for me in 1992, we would not had any children. My husband didn't want to adopt. My son was an IVF baby. He was born in 1993 and I struggled for 3 years with infertility. We decided to be blessed with one healthy baby and thanked God for all of our blessings."

Hannah P. • Chippewa

"I have been in IVF treatment since 2021. It has been my only ray of hope for having a child with my husband. I have had a strong desire to be a mother and after years of trying for a baby, it was so meaningful to have a conversation with an IVF doctor that could finally give me options for starting a family. IVF provides possibilities that no other form of fertility treatment can offer and I am extremely grateful for the ability to undergo this treatment."

Kayla A. • Chippewa

"IVF is extremely important to me because it is currently the only option my husband and I have to be able to conceive a child of our own. We do have an IVF story, that after two years so far hasn't ended with a successful pregnancy, but we are still in it and going through it. IVF is hard enough as it is, and draining, and SO expensive, and has so many ups and downs and unknowns, but we do it. We do it because it's the only option we have. If we lost access to it, we'd never be able to have a baby of our own."

Taylor J. • Marquette

"If it wasn't for IVF I wouldn't be here today! My parents struggled to conceive and were able to have me and my younger brother thanks to IVF technologies. I have been lucky enough to conceive my own children without requiring IVF, but I fully support access to IVF for people who want to have kids but need assistance. There are so many reasons people need IVF, many of which are entirely out of our individual control (i.e., legacy toxins in our environment)."