Dear Laurita Thomas,

We are writing in support of the Fertility Justice Campaign of GEOs Women’s Caucus. Like GEO, we believe that the University of Michigan’s health insurance coverage should include fertility treatment options. Doing so will be an important step in demonstrating support for women in the academy and commitment to a diverse, inclusive University of Michigan.

{insert specific reasons why you/your organization support access to fertility treatments}

{Additional points that you can select from to include}

State of Michigan

The State of Michigan provides options for state employees to access fertility treatments. As a world class institution, the University of Michigan should certainly meet (if not exceed) the standards set by the state.

Social Justice

We believe that advocating for comprehensive reproductive justice includes expanding safe and affordable access to fertility treatments.  Not only would it make the academy a friendlier place for women who choose to have children (better enabling them to plan their families on a schedule that best works with their careers); it also expands access to groups who have greater difficulty conceiving and less access to treatment, such as women of color and the queer community.

Women in Academia

Offering comprehensive insurance that includes fertility treatments will boost the University’s competitiveness when recruiting faculty and graduate students. In a field that is known to be a particularly difficult profession to combine with parenthood, UM must demonstrate support for families in order to attract the best scholars. The strength of the University of Michigan is reflected through the career success of students and faculty. Empowering them to plan their childbearing in ways that best serve their career goals only strengthens the University. Providing this coverage sends the message that women’s labor is valued by the University of Michigan.

We urge you to take prompt action in extending these benefits to employees at the University of Michigan. It is necessary and the right thing to do.

Sincerely,