

For the record, my name is Kara Skaflestad.

At 26 years old, I was diagnosed with stage 3, invasive breast cancer. I went on to have extensive treatment such as chemo, radiation, a double mastectomy, a year of Herceptin treatment and 10 years of hormone therapy, which I'm still on today.

I was told to start fertility treatments to preserve my eggs for future use. This was shocking. I was young and I wasn't ready to start family planning. I also couldn't afford it.

My community came together and started a fundraiser for me called "Loving Kara" to help pay for medical expenses, including \$50,000 in fertility preservation and family creation efforts. I can personally attest to the tremendous financial cost of cancer and fertility preservation.

I wish I could share with you that I was able to have children. It didn't work out for me. So I'm here today to advocate for others.

Please consider helping women who have been floored by a cancer diagnosis and then shocked to learn their ability to start a family is in jeopardy. Just because we have cancer, doesn't mean we aren't loving, caring and wanting to be moms. Not all of us have a community to help. And we all want the option to have a family someday.

My cancer journey changed the path to my future. I've devoted much of my life and career to helping people with cancer, including founding a non-profit that delivers (care packages) to people who have just learned about their cancer diagnosis. And today I'm so pleased to lend my voice today in support of SB 911 and request your support for this important bill.