

To Whom It May Concern:

Our names are Mollie Huyck, Nurse, and Aaron Huyck, Firefighter, and we are in support of SB 168 and ask for your consideration and support. We endured 8 years of infertility/ fertility treatments, due to an unpreventable medical condition, including recurrent pregnancy loss (9) before completing our family through gestational surrogacy in 2017.

Through our journey with infertility, we learned that infertility is a disease, not a choice. This disease is recognized as such through governing bodies (World Health Organization, American Society for Reproductive Medicine and other professional organizations) yet in Oregon, a forward thinking and progressive state, we currently discriminate against those with infertility or in need of fertility preservation based on the current language requiring care coverage. Access to fertility coverage or fertility preservation needs to be a priority for Oregon, for Oregon families. If we have learned anything during our time over the past year while in quarantine to protect our families, is that family is important and expand your family is often one of the most life defining moments we will ever experience.

Infertility does not discriminate by social status, race or gender and often leaves individuals and families with hard decisions financially when determining next steps for family building. Fertility treatment accessibility to only those with the financial resources to afford cost of treatment does not serve ALL Oregonians. Based on a recent study conducted by Carrot Fertility, a global fertility benefit organization, the average cost for an ART cycle for an Oregonian is \$13,925 and consultations run on average \$312 with the average national cost of IVF at \$15,000.

In Oregon, 1:8 Oregonians may experience infertility or in other words, approximately 527,000 Oregonians may have challenges with access to care due to financial barriers. Through my professional work in the fertility care and advocacy, I speak to dozens upon dozens of individuals where cost is ultimate barrier for these hard working families.

They say it takes a village to raise a child but for many, including our family, it took a village to have a child.

With gratitude for your support,

Mollie and Aaron Huyck

Clackamas County