

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Nakaya Baughman
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1530

Dear Committee Member,

As an Oregon resident who cares deeply about those struggling to build their family in our state, I strongly urge you to pass the infertility insurance bill before you, which will help Oregonians build their families when faced with cancer or other conditions that can cause infertility. Oregon families need your support now.

I need your support, along with the 1 in 8 couples in our state living with the disease of infertility and the thousands of Oregonians diagnosed with cancer during their reproductive years.

My name is Nakaya Baughman.. I've had trouble conceiving since I started trying to in 2016. I brought up many problematic symptoms to doctors throughout my teen years and into my 20s.. from terrible menstrual cycles to trying to conceive for 3 years I knew something was wrong.. but no healthcare provider would take me serious or run tests as I didn't have insurance. I've been left to deal with unbearable menstrual cycles that are because of what the affordable care act would only diagnose as infertility.. something that is not covered by state insurance. This meant multiple doctors leaving my symptoms and infertility undiagnosed and untreated. Finally in 2019 I got a rare job that had fertility treatment coverage.. something that is too rare to come by. I decided to jump right in to testing and treatment. In 2020 I had success after 3 failed treatments and moving onto a more expensive/more invasive treatment. In 2021 I gave birth to my daughter.. I was left with about \$5,000 in medical bills which was better than the \$30,000 out of pocket.. but still \$5,000 I had to pay to do what so many can do easily and for free. Now in 2022 I am thinking about transferring my one frozen embryo in order to hopefully get pregnant again. The issue is that I'm left again with no coverage. So now in order to have a possibility at a sibling for my baby girl I have to save thousands for treatment.. and if the transfer doesn't come with success then would have to save about \$25,000 for a whole round of IVF.. that is college tuition for a year.. I highly urge you all to push this bill to pass so myself and so many others have a better chance at even a possibility of parenthood or giving our children siblings.

It is time for Oregon to update its insurance laws to include coverage for the standard of care for patients with infertility and those diagnosed with cancer or other conditions that may cause infertility. By passing this pro-family legislation, Oregon will join 19 other states across the nation that help hardworking families get access to medically necessary treatments while only minimally impacting insurance premiums, if at all. States with IVF insurance have lower rates of multiple births than states without IVF

coverage, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

Please support Oregon families by moving this pro-family bill forward. Thank you!

Sincerely, Nakaya Baughman