

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Haley Lyons
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 husband and I have always lived by rules and made responsible choices. We wanted to make sure we were financially stable, had long-term positive employment opportunities and lived in an environment suitable for a child. We put our desire to have children on hold while we did all of these things because being upstanding citizens of our community was important to both of us. When we felt that we could bring a child into the World responsibly we started trying to do so. 6 years and \$100,000 later, we brought our daughter, Brynn home. Our daughter is worth every cent that it cost us, every tear that we shed, every fight that we had about where we were going to find the money or the resources to keep going. She was worth it. My husband and I are the lucky ones. We are lucky in that we had good jobs. We led a frugal lifestyle budgeting every penny to save up for this child we wanted so badly. We were lucky to have families who were able to help us fund the journey. Families who love our daughter with their whole heart and soul. Our insurance covered almost nothing. Every once in a while our doctor could slip in a "diagnostic ultrasound" and it would be covered but largely nothing was. We purchased drugs from Europe which made me feel like I was doing something illegal (it wasn't but it felt risky for many reasons). Infertility is the hardest test I have ever had to take. Thankfully I passed with my marriage still in tact and two wonderful children. The lack of insurance coverage is just another arrow that women facing this challenge have slung at their hearts. How will they make their motherhood dreams, their motherhood rights a reality without funding? Adoption is an option. Adoption would have cost us the same. Foster to adoption is an option but that route takes an extra special person who can handle parenting a child who has likely suffered significant trauma and we don't want just anyone tackling that for these kids. Please help us. Life is hard enough as it is. When your body betrays you and you feel all alone you have to then worry if you will have enough money to cover the next round of treatment. Your whole view of who you thought you'd be is completely shattered and

many marriages right along with it. This is a hardship that no one should have to endure in the midst of what is already a very hard time.

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,
Haley Lyons
Eugene, Oregon