

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Heather and Stephanie Thompson-McCollough
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 wife and I tried endlessly for over 18 months to become pregnant. We spent tens of thousands of dollars on fertility treatment, felt completely alone and unsupported by our insurance plans, medical professionals, and community. Finally, we sought fertility care outside of the US and found that other countries have much more robust treatment models, community care, and support. It was devastating to realize that our own community that we love so much could not provide us with the support we needed during our darkest hours. Fertility treatments put us in a financial hole that we will have to fight our way out of for years to come. It is not acceptable.

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,
Heather and Stephanie Thompson-McCollough