

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Aubrey Cecil
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 been trying for our second child for nearly 2 years. The first year, we tried not to worry, and our doctors allayed our fears with the usual and correct advice of "it can take up to a year" and "you've had success before, no reason to be concerned."

I didn't know that half of people who experience infertility fall into the same category that I fell into: secondary infertility.

Everything checks out normal for my husband and me, we're two healthy, active people. We've paid out thousands of dollars to find out we're "fine." Internal scans and blood draws to say everything looks good, here's a bill that your insurance will not touch with a 10 foot pole. Because apparently it's a "choice" to be infertile, it's a "lifestyle", it's not a legitimate medical issue. Infertility is heavy and draining and carries the grief for the life you'd dared to dream.

Our chances of being able to have another child that we so desperately want is getting smaller and smaller all the time. I'm currently awaiting the results of our second intrauterine insemination, but my hope is faint and fragile. We know that we're moving on to IVF sooner rather than later, and I've spent hours trying to figure out how on earth to afford this price tag for something that I never chose to have.

Having kids without assistance is something covered by insurance, and rightfully so. It would be horrifying if it wasn't. Having kids- FIGHTING to have a child, should be covered as well. Coverage won't heal the pain of infertility, but it can lessen the sting knowing that treatment is available to those who need it.

Infertility is lonely, depressing, stressful, and one of the most difficult things I have

ever had to navigate. It's time to make it easier for others to walk through.

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,

Aubrey Cecil