

Law Office of Erin Robinson

Licensed in Oregon and Washington

ATTN: Senate Committee on Health Care RE: SB 1530

Dear Committee Members,

As a life-long Oregon resident and an attorney who specializes in family formation and assisted reproductive technology, I am writing to ask for your support in passing Senate Bill 1530. This bill will serve to uphold every Oregonian's right to create a family of their own, address many of the severe inequities that exist in the current landscape for individuals and families struggling with the disease of infertility, provide support and equitable opportunities for Oregon's LGBTQ+ community, and result in lower overall health care costs for all.

Every day I encounter heart-wrenching stories of struggles with infertility, a disease faced by more than 1 in 8 couples. Please understand: Oregonians did not choose this disease, it chose them, whether as a result of cancer, a genetic condition or other cause. And, as if the struggle to conceive a child and build a family isn't difficult enough, insult is added to the mental, physical and emotional injuries, as the financial hurdles leave only those with significant financial means to pursue expensive IVF treatment options. Recently, more and more states are recognizing these inequities and seeking to address them by adding infertility insurance coverage, as are many private sector companies in efforts to attract and retain employees.

This bill also explicitly seeks to address inequities faced by LGBTQ+ constituents, whose obstacles go far beyond the financial hurdles. In a recent survey of trans adults, less than 8% replied that they even had a conversation with their medical provider regarding their reproductive rights, and options for future family building, such as retrieving and freezing their eggs or sperm prior to undergoing hormone treatment(s), surgery or other medical procedures that would preclude their ability to ever have a child conceived from their own genetic material.

Lastly, research has shown that states with IVF insurance have lower rates of multiple births (e.g. twins) than states without IVF coverage, which lowers overall health care costs. Premature births, genetic defects and abnormalities, multiple births and lengthy stays in the NICU can result in medical costs in the hundreds of thousands, often absorbed by Oregon taxpayers. With access through insurance coverage, Oregonians faced with infertility will be able to choose the safest and healthiest path forward to creating their own families, without facing discrimination in the insurance marketplace.

I passionately urge you to move SB 1530 forward to protect, uphold and advance the family formation rights of ALL Oregonians.

Thank you,

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