

Submitter: Tracy Palmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB491

Testimony in Support of SB 491

Tracy Palmer

My name is Tracy Palmer, I live in McMinnville, Oregon and I have unexplained infertility and what's referred to as "social infertility" because I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community in a same sex relationship. When we speak about infertility, the statistic of 1 in 8 gets mentioned a lot, but what most don't realize is that statistic only includes heterosexual, cis-gender, coupled women. There is a huge portion of the population that utilizes fertility treatments missing from this statistic. I do not have fertility insurance coverage. My wife and I struggled for nearly two years to conceive, suffered pregnancy loss, spent over \$30,000 and paid for it all out of pocket. We began with at home IUIs with sperm from a sperm bank and a midwife who came to our home to perform the IUIs. After 5 cycles and 6 IUIs, we were emotionally and financially drained with no success getting pregnant. We took a step back to save more money and eventually decided to get the help of a fertility doctor. We did a total of 4 medicated IUIs at a fertility clinic, suffered one miscarriage and eventually got and stayed pregnant on the 4th IUI. I gave birth to our son in October of 2021, but no one should have to go into debt, spend what we spent, and put everything on hold for the chance to build their families. My experience with infertility as a queer person has brought advocacy into my life because I don't want anyone to go through the struggle that we did -infertility is hard enough without the immense burden of lack of equitable infertility coverage and inclusive pro-family legislation. SB 491 could change the lives of so many Oregonians who are hoping to expand their families and I hope that you'll support this bill.