



February 27, 2023

The Honorable Deb Patterson,
Chair Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE, Room HR B
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon, I am writing to express **support for Senate Bill 491**, which would provide coverage of fertility procedures and medications. We encourage the committee to pass the bill as introduced.

Basic Rights Oregon is the state's longest-serving LGBTQ2SIA+ public policy and advocacy organization, and we know how critical it is to pass legislation that allows each of us to create the loving family we want and deserve. Fertility procedures, including IUI, IVF and related services, are essential services for having children for many in our community, but have long alluded members of our community who don't have the means or financial resources to access them.

Passing SB 491 means that more Oregon families, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are able to have children. We would like to thank the Chair and advocates for the inclusion of a study to address access for community members on the Oregon Health Plan and for not including the explicit religious exemption or defacto exemption language from last year's versions of the bill, so that significantly more Oregonians are able to have children without unnecessary barriers.

At Basic Rights Oregon, we know that we all deserve to have a family, and that support systems for LGBTQ2SIA+ youth are more important than ever. We urge you to support SB 491 for the health and well-being of all Oregonians ready to start the family they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Todd Addams".

M. Todd Addams
Interim Executive Director