

Submitter: Jessica Shipley  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2959

My name is Jessica Shipley, I live in Portland, Oregon, and am a lifelong Oregonian. I went through 3 grueling years of infertility treatments before finally welcoming my first child in August 2021. Doctors were never able to come up with a likely “cause” of my fertility struggles. I also happen to be a member of the LGBTQ+ community in a same sex marriage, which means that I was reliant from the beginning on fertility treatments to start my family. We attempted 8 IUIs, which was incredibly financially and emotionally draining, before being formally told that I had “unexplained infertility” and deciding we needed to use IVF if we wanted to continue to try for children. When you consider all of the medications, preparatory procedures (I had to do several minor surgeries to “rule things out”), fees, tests, storage, and probably other things I’m forgetting, we spent over \$70k out of pocket. After 2 failed IVF transfers and switching clinics we were successful on our third transfer. No one should have to go into debt or spend a small fortune to have a family, but this is the reality for many and particularly for queer families. Infertility treatments are hard enough without the incredible stress that the financial burden adds. I hope Oregon will be a state that welcomes and encourages diverse families to come, stay and grow their families by providing this expanded fertility coverage.