COURTNEY NERON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 26



February 11, 2025

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Javadi, Vice Chair Nelson, and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I write in support of HB 2959 - a bill to close gaps in access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

HB 2959 supports Oregonians who need IVF to assist in building and growing their families. Over the last several years, we have demonstrated our commitment to expanding access to reproductive health care. Today Oregon has the opportunity to join over 20 other states who have expanded access to vital family building services like IVF and fertility preservation.

HB 2959 would require insurers to cover in vitro fertilization (IVF) and Fertility Preservation, which are vital services for families diagnosed with infertility. Fertility preservation remains particularly important for cancer patients whose treatments may impact their future fertility and proactively allows them to be able to take the steps necessary to build their family if they choose.

It is important to note that this care is already covered for the 140,000 state employees that access their insurance from the Public Employee Benefit Board (PEBB). PEBB has been providing family building insurance coverage for the last three years. Thankfully this coverage has given us real world data right here in Oregon about utilization.

Despite what you will hear from insurers, utilization has consistently remained low. Just over 1% of employees used <u>some</u> portion of the PEBB coverage and this includes individuals that may have only used interventions like medications or other services that did **not** necessitate IVF. Our utilization data demonstrates that cost projections of insurers are likely overly exaggerated. While it is expensive for families to pay for this health care out of pocket, we assert that costs to insurers are negligible.

HB 2959 provides us with the opportunity to make sure that the 1 in 6 Oregonians who are diagnosed with infertility get access to the care they need. It is time that we passed this bill.

Thank you for your consideration today. I urge your support for HB 2959.

Sincerely,

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