

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

Hello,

My name is Meg Anderson and I am a mom to a beautiful 3 year old boy. His existence was only possible due to IVF. For years my husband and I tried to have a child. Obstacles we could have never imagined were thrown at us. I underwent surgery, diagnostic tests including labs and imaging. Some was covered, some was not. Then when we found out our only chance to conceive was through IVF. The odds of natural conception were against us.

We couldn't afford the 30 thousand dollars one round of egg retrieval and embryo implantation costs. We were fortunate to have a mortgage and we had to refinance to obtain the necessary funds.

Going through the process, we discovered that my husband and I were carriers of a genetic condition that led to death or severe disability in the first year of life. We got 3 embryos after my retrieval, 2 of them had the disease. We only had one embryo left and thank goodness for that one- that embryo became my son. We know we are so lucky and fortunate. But there are many families out there not as fortunate as us. If we didn't have a mortgage, I don't know if my son would be here today.

Additionally, my pursuit of our son led to my endometriosis diagnosis. A patch of endometriosis was found next to my appendix- it was only a matter of time before that became appendicitis and caused more damage.

Make no mistake- fertility care is health care. Thank you for taking the time to read my story. Please make insurance cover fertility benefits.