

Dear Representatives:

I write to you in support of HB 2959, which would ensure Oregonians greater access to fertility services by requiring insurers to provide coverage for certain fertility-related procedures. This issue is important to me and my family, and this is an overdue change for Oregon.

HB 2002 in 2023 – described by The Oregonian as a bill that would guarantee and expand reproductive and gender-affirming health care to Oregonians – contained a critical gap. Without commenting on each of the topics addressed in HB 2002, if this legislation were truly aimed at codifying full-spectrum access to reproductive care for all Oregonians, HB 2002 would have mandated insurance coverage of fertility-related medical care at the same statutory level as this legislation mandates insurance coverage of gender-affirming care and access to abortion care. **HB 2959 provides the opportunity to finally close this gap.**

Thousands of Oregon families – across all demographics – experience fertility struggles and difficulties in conceiving children. Whether due to advancing age, as a side effect of other medical care, congenital body abnormalities, or simply the medical phenomenon of “unexplained infertility”, thousands of Oregon couples find themselves unable to naturally grow their families. In many of these cases, the treatment plan might consist of medically-assisted procedures such as intrauterine injection (IUI) or in vitro fertilization (IVF). These procedures can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars and are seldom covered by commercial health insurance.

IVF, IUI and other medically-assisted reproductive treatments have been around for decades, and are known to be common, safe, and effective. Yet because of the high costs associated with them, they are only easily accessible to a small segment of the population. This leads to misguided perceptions about which demographics are most affected by infertility. **In fact, legislation to ensure full access and mandated insurance coverage of fertility procedures would be a legislative achievement that benefits Oregonians of every income level, every color, every sexual orientation, and every political affiliation.**

**The ability to have and care for the family that you wish for is a fundamental tenet of reproductive justice.** The concept of reproductive justice has been used as a framework for many of the policy goals and campaign promises espoused by nearly every member of Oregon’s legislative majority. It is time for the State of Oregon to be a leader across the entire continuum of reproductive justice and ensure equitable access to fertility services for those who require them. **The passage of HB 2959 provides an opportunity to put those promises into practice for all Oregonians.**

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