



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

I'm Seth Johnstone, and I'm asking for your support of the Oregon Family-Building Act (HB 2959) on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon (BRO).

As the longest-serving LGBTQ2SIA+ rights organization in Oregon, BRO's mission is to ensure both legal and lived equality for all queer and trans Oregonians. All Oregonians should have control over their bodies and access to all reproductive healthcare, including IVF. This bill would be life-changing for many LGBTQ2SIA+ Oregonians wanting to start or grow their families, and would remove the disproportionate barriers to care faced by our community as well as BIPOC Oregonians.

Right now, the out-of-pocket costs of IVF treatment puts it out of reach for many Oregonians, and it's not always covered by insurance. Considering that one in six people experience infertility, this is a glaring omission. Oregon is a leader in our nation when it comes to reproductive rights, bodily autonomy and family planning protections. Yet even today, thousands of Oregonians do not have access to the resources they need to start or grow their families.

The Oregon Family-Building Act will address this issue by requiring comprehensive insurance coverage for IVF in Oregon. When this bill becomes law, Oregon will join 24 other states in having this policy, and will also be aligned with the IVF coverage policies many of our state's largest employers already have.

Oregon is recognized as one of the best states when it comes to both LGBTQ2SIA+ rights and reproductive freedom—but the lack of IVF access is a significant gap in our laws. By voting YES to advance HB 2959, you have the chance to close this gap and ensure Oregon is a place where all individuals and families are welcome. Given the national assault on queer and transgender rights, women's rights, and racial justice, it's now more important than ever that Oregon remains a safe haven and leading example for bodily autonomy and healthcare access.

Building a family is a priceless experience—one that all Oregonians deserve a chance to have, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity or income level. You can make that a reality, and ensure a strong future for Oregon, by voting YES to advance the Oregon Family-Building Act, or HB 2959.

Thank you for considering our testimony,

Seth Johnstone (he/him)
Basic Rights Oregon