

Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 18th, 2025

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, Members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for your time this afternoon, and thank you to Senator Broadman for championing this legislation. For the record, my name is Emerson Levy, and I am the State Representative for House District 53, representing much of central Oregon.

I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 1137, which will ensure that women undergoing breast reconstruction after a mastectomy have access to essential, medically necessary procedures and services. I am joined by my friend, Gail Menasco, who will share her story today. After experiencing what I would describe as a failure of the system, she has become a champion for other women navigating the system throughout the country.

Women are getting breast cancer and other cancers younger. There are more options available, many of the options are safer, more cost effective in the long run and for some women that have experienced radiation, autologous reconstruction might be the only option.

This bill is critical in helping those affected by breast cancer and other conditions requiring mastectomy, access the full range of treatment options, including autologous breast reconstruction, without the burden of prohibitive costs or unnecessary delays.

We have heard from patients who have faced unnecessary roadblocks, like being forced to undergo less effective procedures or being denied coverage for important follow-up care. This bill eliminates those barriers by ensuring that all necessary procedures are covered under the same terms as other medical services.

SB 1137 ensures that out-of-network providers are reimbursed fairly, and it requires health insurers to reimburse out-of-network providers at rates that are no less than in-network rates for comparable services. This is essential to ensuring that patients are not penalized for seeking care from qualified specialists who may not be in their insurer's network.

The importance of ensuring equitable and comprehensive coverage for breast reconstruction cannot be overstated. When a woman faces breast cancer or other conditions that result in a mastectomy, the emotional and physical toll is immense. Access to appropriate care—including autologous breast reconstruction—should not add to that burden.

I ask for your support of SB 1137 to ensure that all women in Oregon have access to the best possible care during their recovery process. By passing this bill, we can provide women with the

peace of mind that they will have access to the care they need, when they need it, without the added stress of navigating restrictive insurance practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emerson Levy

State Representative, House District 53