

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee on Health Care,

As a volunteer Research Advocate for the Knight Cancer Institute, a Patient Advocate Leader with FORCE-a national non-profit that represents families facing hereditary cancer, and a very blessed mother and grandmother, I'm asking for your strong support for SB 535. This bill would provide insurance coverage for fertility treatments for Oregonians who simply wish to have a family but cannot due to infertility or other medical diagnoses.

Fertility treatments and IVF are a dream come true for those with an infertility diagnosis, cancer patients undergoing treatment and high risk individuals who mitigate that risk through prophylactic surgery. But for many, the financial burden makes this dream unattainable.

I experienced years of heartbreak as my children and their spouses dealt with infertility. I'm thankful they had the financial resources (tens of thousands of dollars) and resolve that created their beautiful families. I'm also thankful that using IVF they were able to limit exposure to hereditary cancer risk for their children.

My family carries a genetic mutation resulting in Lynch Syndrome which increases cancer risk, especially at younger ages than the general population. A parent with Lynch has a 50% chance of passing the mutation to offspring. A procedure done in conjunction with IVF called Pre-implementation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) can biopsy embryos prior to transfer to determine whether the embryos carry the mutation. This process can be used to eliminate the risk of many hereditary conditions.

All Oregonians should have access to the wide range of fertility treatments available through their health insurance. Please support SB 535.

Thank you,

Sue Williams