

Submitter: Cally Braun
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB535

Dear Senate Committee On Health Care,

My name is Cally Braun, and I am an Ob/Gyn resident physician who sees patients struggling to pay for the cost of infertility treatment. This barrier prevents patients from accessing timely and appropriate treatment, which can lead to delayed diagnoses, care, and worse outcomes.

For example, a young patient with a new cancer diagnosis has limited time to undergo fertility preservation, if desired, prior to chemotherapy. If the cost of fertility preservation is too great up front, or it would take too much time to save to cover this service, a patient may not be able to access this care and be limited in their ability to build a family later in life.

Because infertility is a common disease (affecting one in six people, both men and women), many patients would benefit from insurance coverage of infertility preservation and treatment. Notably, covering infertility preservation and treatment minimally impacts insurance costs. As such, it is not only cost-effective to cover these services, but also provides timely access to health care that patients may not otherwise be able to seek. For many, this care can allow them to achieve their family building dreams.

Please vote "Yes" on SB-535 so we can better take care of the health of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Cally Braun, MD