

Submitter:

Mollie Huyck

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB535

Infertility is a deeply personal journey for many, including my family. We have long advocated for access to family-building resources and insurance coverage for care. Yet, here we are again, requesting coverage for a medical diagnosis that affects 1 in 6: infertility.

No one dreams of facing infertility, yet it is a challenge many endure. Our story involves an unexplained endocrine condition and the risks faced by first responders exposed to carcinogens. These are personal examples of the emotional and financial toll infertility takes. After enduring seven years of miscarriages and losing nine pregnancies, we were at a crossroads. Our desire to become parents was unwavering, but the path was difficult. Ultimately, we welcomed our daughter through embryo donation via a gestational carrier, a journey requiring resilience and significant financial investment. She is our greatest joy! It takes a village to raise a child, and sometimes it takes a village to have one.

With your support, we are championing a cause that provides essential support for individuals and families longing for the joys of parenthood without overwhelming obstacles. The lack of infertility coverage significantly impacts physical, emotional, and financial health for those trying to conceive.

Critics may claim it costs the state too much, but the fiscal result will show otherwise. Lack of insurance leads to delayed treatment or inadequate care, reducing chances of conception. Some opt for cheaper, less effective treatments or transfer multiple embryos in IVF, risking complications. Chronic stress from infertility causes high blood pressure, sleep disturbances, and weakened immunity.

Infertility also affects mental health, linking to anxiety and depression. Financial burdens amplify feelings of helplessness and isolation, straining marriages and relationships. Many struggle with feelings of inadequacy, guilt, or grief when unable to afford treatment.

As part of a first responder family, I understand the sacrifices made in serving Oregon.

I share this as a former patient with unexplained infertility, a nurse with over 25 years of experience, and a co-founder of My Fertility Health, Inc., and Oregon Fertility Advocates. I additionally work in a clinical capacity with Pacific NW Fertility, supporting those seeking reproductive health and family-building resources.

Please approve and pass SB 535.

Thank you,
Mollie Huyck
Clackamas County