

Submitter: Jessica Campbell  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4155

Dear Leaders,

How many children do you have?

If you've been blessed with parenthood, this is normal and lighthearted question with an easy answer. If you are suffering the deep angst and depression from infertility, this question is like a knife through the heart. Infertility is an all-consuming disease that affects you mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially. It threatens every aspect of your life. That may sound dramatic, but if you have a child... can you think of anything in the world that would be worse than that child not existing?

Let that sink in.

I have been leading infertility support groups for over 10 years. I'm in multiple support groups on social media. I could fill pages with statistics from studies about infertility and its effects, but let me just tell you what I've seen and heard from real individuals and couples over these years.

The longing to have a child is all-consuming. The pain and grief is overwhelming. The tears seem to never end. They suffer, usually in silence, from a very real thing called reproductive trauma. They try EVERYTHING within their budget to bring a child into the world. And the greatest barrier to their dreams coming true is... the cost. This week I sat with a friend who has been trying to have a baby for two years now. She miscarried her only child and has been told fertility treatments are the only option. The grief is overtaking her and without insurance covering the treatment, she and her husband are left to wait and hope that this bill passes.

How many children do you have?

That question used to rip me apart. For 8 long years, the answer was "none."

Today my answer has changed. I have 6 children: 2 in Heaven, 2 miracle boys at home, and 2 in the freezer, waiting for a chance to join their siblings. These 6 children came through IVF. We have 2 more embryos. I will not let my embryo babies be discarded... I have to find a way to give them a chance at life out of the freezer. I am believing with all my heart and soul that the giant financial mountain in front of us - in front of so many Oregonians - will move. You have a chance to make a difference in our lives, and bring new life into Oregon.

Thank you for reading.

From an AI search:

Based on data from RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, approximately 116,291 women aged 15-44 in Oregon face impaired fecundity (infertility).

Key details regarding infertility and fertility trends in Oregon:

Impacted Population: The 116,291 figure represents about 10.9% of women in the 15-44 age group, consistent with national averages for impaired fecundity.

Low Birth Rate: Oregon has one of the lowest birth rates in the United States, with a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.39 to 1.4 children per woman in recent years, which is well below the 2.1 replacement rate.