

Submitter:

Tracy Palmer

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4155

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee, first, thank you for your time today. My name is Tracy Palmer, I live in McMinnville, Oregon and I am here in support of HB4155. I have unexplained infertility and what's sometimes referred to as "social infertility" because I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community in a same sex relationship. When we speak about infertility, the statistic of 1 in 6 gets mentioned a lot- but this statistic fails to include the queer community who need utilize fertility treatments but don't always fall into the definition of infertility as it stands. I have never had insurance with fertility coverage. My wife and I struggled for nearly two years to conceive our first child, suffered pregnancy loss, spent over \$40,000 and paid for it all out of pocket. We began with at home IUIs with sperm from a sperm bank and a midwife who came to our home to perform the IUIs. After 5 cycles and 6 IUIs, we were emotionally and financially drained with no success getting pregnant. We took a step back to save more money and eventually decided to get the help of a fertility doctor. We did a total of 4 medicated IUIs at a fertility clinic, suffered one miscarriage and eventually got and stayed pregnant on the 4th IUI. I gave birth to our son in October of 2021 and in November of 2023 our second son was born after 1 IUI at the same fertility clinic. No one should have to go into debt, spend what we spent, and put everything on hold for the chance to build their families. My experience with infertility as a queer person has brought advocacy into my life because I don't want anyone to go through the struggle that we did -infertility is hard enough without the immense burden of lack of equitable infertility coverage and inclusive pro-family legislation. HB4155 means some Oregonians will have the burden of cost lifted from the hell of infertility.