



FAMILY FORWARD
OREGON

Smart policies for today's families.

TO: The Oregon House Committee on Rules
FR: Lili Hoag, Policy Director, Family Forward Oregon
DA: May 6, 2015
RE: Support for HB 3132 Updating Parentage Laws

Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee,

I am Lili Hoag, Policy Director for Family Forward Oregon. Our mission is to create an Oregon where *all* families can be economically secure and have the time it takes to care for a family. We work toward this goal by engaging and partnering with parents, employers and policy-makers to create innovative, forward-thinking approaches to work and family.

To succeed, it's essential that our laws reflect the changing realities of how families form, live, care for each other, and even separate, which is why I am here today. Family Forward Oregon supports House Bill 3132, because it's essential we update Oregon's parentage statutes to better protect all families.

HB 3132 will protect the parental rights and children regardless how our families form—including birth of the child, foster care, adoption, and assisted means of pregnancy. We need to protect the rights of all these parents and all these children whether or not the parents are married.

For example, increasingly couples use technologies such as in vitro fertilization (IVF) to become pregnant and create a family. Current Oregon statutes refer only to artificial insemination. Broadening the definition to "assisted reproduction" helps to clarify and protect all parties involved—including the future child.

Additionally, current law also does not protect the parental rights of unmarried parents who use sperm donors. If a man and woman want to start a family together, have fertility challenges and use a sperm donor to conceive, the father's parental rights are not protected. If the mother has a health crisis during delivery and is incapacitated, the dad is not allowed to bring his child home from the hospital or put the child on his health insurance—because he is not considered the "father" under current state law.

Legal parenthood is more complicated today than ever before, and we need to make sure Oregon's laws keep pace with reproductive technology changes. Our laws must both recognize and protect all families, regardless of how they form.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring forward this bill and I urge your support of HB 3132.