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March 16, 2017

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
Chairwoman Health
900 Court St NE S-211
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 859
Position: Strong Support

Dear Senator Anderson,

As a 9-year breast cancer survivor, mother of a child conceived through a fertility preservation procedure and founder of the patient advocacy organization, Fertile Action, I write in support SB 859. This bill solves a very important issue for young adults with cancer; informed consent of fertility risk.

I was only able to fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a mother because I discussed fertility risk with my oncologist prior to receiving cancer treatment and was referred to an oncofertility specialist in time to do something about it. So few patients are afforded the same opportunity because cancer centers have failed to implement informed consent procedures that ensure the fertility-risk conversation is addressed within the context of adolescent or young adults being diagnosed with cancer.

A recent article published in Cancer, quoted a study, in which only 13% of reproductive-aged, breast cancer patients were informed their fertility would be at risk from life-saving cancer treatment. Involuntarily sterilized, these patients perform worse on quality of life measures and report regret.

More and more insurance carriers are covering fertility preservation procedures, leaving no reason for the oncology community to withhold this critical piece of information related to cancer care.

References:

<http://nursing.onclive.com/conference-coverage/2017-cancer-survivorship-symposium/many-breast-cancer-survivors-experience-decisional-regret-about-fertility>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27213483>

Should you have any questions regarding our position, please contact me alice@ovum.md or 310-927-1017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice K. Crisci".

Alice K. Crisci
Founder, Fertile Action