



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



March 11, 2019

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, Chair,
Senator Dennis Linthicum, Vice Chair,
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee,

On behalf of the 530 practicing Ob-Gyns in the Oregon section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), I wish to express our enthusiastic support for SB 911. This bill would require that insurance companies in the state cover the costs of fertility preservation for patients undergoing medical treatments that could impair future fertility.

As we all know, having children is one of life's most important and fulfilling endeavors. Many men and women of reproductive age receive serious and frightening medical diagnoses that require treatments which can have detrimental effects on their ability to achieve or carry a pregnancy in the future. Chemotherapeutic agents can destroy sperm and eggs, for example; a young woman might require removal of her reproductive organs to treat gynecologic cancer. Our state should be doing all it can to support these citizens so that their chances at raising a family are not eliminated.

Scientific advances have created the opportunity to preserve eggs and sperm for future use, with ever improving success. These procedures, however - particularly egg harvesting and preservation - are extremely expensive, with out of pocket costs easily reaching \$10,000-20,000. These costs put such options out of reach for many patients. Despite national mandates requiring insurance coverage for other restorative treatments, such as breast reconstruction after mastectomy, there is currently no Oregon legislative requirement for coverage of fertility preservation for patients facing infertility as a result of necessary medical treatment. In addition, while fertility preserving treatments are expensive on an individual level, spread among a large insurance pool, premium increases are negligible from a per-member perspective. Cost analyses in other states have ranged from \$0.01 per member per month in California, to \$0.10-0.24 in Maryland.

This bill would put Oregon on par with other states (CT, MD, DE, NJ, RI, IL) which have already passed such legislation in recognition of the societal and personal importance of preserving the ability to have a family. We agree with OHSU's call, that no Oregonian should have to choose between being able to preserve their fertility and saving their own life. We urge you to pass SB 911.

Sincerely,

Carrie Miles, MD, MPH
Legislative Chair, Oregon Section
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.