

March 11, 2019

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Danielle Cooper

RE: Support SB 911

Good Afternoon, Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Danielle Cooper. Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 911 and giving us the opportunity to speak about its potential impact on the lives of young women and men in Oregon.

In 2016, when I was 28, I was diagnosed with stage 2b triple positive breast cancer. My husband and I had been married for 2 years and our son was only a year in a half. We were just starting our lives and our family with plans of having another baby within the year.

The options to preserve fertility are expensive. Raising the funds to pay for this treatment would have taken time I didn't have due to the aggressive form of cancer I was diagnosed with. When we did the initial interviews with fertility doctors we found that it would cost us upwards of \$35,000 to go through the egg retrieval and storage process, and that doesn't even include the cost of surrogacy, which could add another \$20-40,000. Like a lot of people in my situation, I would've had to delay my treatment in order to raise the money to cover the initial procedure and storage.

The prohibitive cost, and the time it would have taken to fundraise, save, or basically beg for the money, left me to make the difficult decision of whether to delay treatment for my aggressive cancer in order to preserve our plans for a bigger family or start treatment immediately and have the best chance of a future with the family I already had. My husband and I made the decision to start treatment, and in 2018 I underwent a full hysterectomy, without the opportunity to save my eggs, and ultimately, removing the opportunity for more children.

No one should have to base their family planning decisions during such a scary time, like a cancer diagnosis, on financial obligations.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 911.