

March 11, 2019

Oregon Senate Health Care committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Good Afternoon Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Corinn Parks. Thank you for hearing Senate Bill 911 and giving us the opportunity to speak about its potential impact on the lives of young Oregonians.

I strongly support this bill because I personally know the devastating impact cancer can have on the life of a young person, and the financial hardships we must incur if we want to pursue parenthood after a dramatic medical diagnosis such as cancer.

At 32 I was diagnosed with ER+ PR+ HER2- breast cancer, Stage 2B. I had a double-mastectomy followed by 8 rounds of chemotherapy. The doctors knew chemotherapy and subsequent hormone suppression therapy would put me in menopause, as well as kill off any existing eggs I had. So I chose to have eggs frozen during the month between surgery and starting chemo. The egg retrieval alone is a \$15,000 procedure at the fertility clinic I chose. That doesn't include the annual cost of storing any viable eggs.

I am now 5 ½ years out from surgery, and my oncologist Ok'd me taking a break from hormones to pursue fertility treatments and carry a baby on my own. Out of the 10 eggs they retrieved in 2013, only one survived and fertilized into a health embryo. Along with genetic testing and the embryo transfer, this process cost me an additional \$15,000. I'm happy to say I'm currently 20 weeks pregnant with a healthy baby boy.

Overall, if you add the cost of health insurance deductibles, alternative medical therapies not covered by my insurance plan, and the fertility treatments, Cancer has cost me well over \$50,000 out of pocket. I'm lucky to be in a position where this hasn't bankrupted me, but it's still a financial struggle. And most Oregonians can't afford this.

Senate Bill 911 would make a small dent in the financial burden young survivors are faced with when wanting to preserve fertility in hopes of someday having a family of their own. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 911.

Sincerely,

Corinn Park