



Impacting Reproductive
Care Worldwide

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March 17, 2021

Senator Deb Patterson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I write to express **support for Senate Bill 168**, requiring health benefit plans to cover fertility and reproductive endocrinology services for men and women.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

Infertility, recognized by the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization as a disease that impacts as many as 7.3 million couples in the United States, can, untreated, upend the dream of building a family. ASRM strongly supports efforts to ensure that all Americans – regardless of zip code, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or economic status – can access affordable, equitable reproductive medicine.

Fertility treatments are expensive and whether or not they will be covered by insurance can be dependent upon one's economic status or employer. Despite significant strides in coverage in recent years, many patients still pay thousands of dollars for infertility care out of pocket. In fact, research shows only one in four people get the treatment they need to overcome infertility, and cost is the top-cited barrier to care. The average cost of an IVF cycle in the United States is approximately \$15,000. Sixty-seven percent of patients report spending \$10,000 or more to build their families.



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Oregon has the opportunity to join a growing list of states prioritizing their citizens' ability to build healthy families. This update to Oregon's insurance law to include coverage for the standard of care for patients with infertility and those diagnosed with cancer or other conditions that may cause infertility will provide hope and needed medical care to countless Oregonians who fear that an infertility diagnosis will kill their dream of becoming parents.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for SB 168. Please do not hesitate to contact our Office of Public Affairs with any questions you may have: Becca O'Connor, Director of Government Affairs, can be reached at: boconnor@asrm.org; 617.270.4465.

Sincerely,

Hugh Taylor, M.D.
President