

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Tessa and David Stephenson
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1530

Dear Committee Member,

As an Oregon resident who cares deeply about those struggling to build their family in our state, I strongly urge you to pass the infertility insurance bill before you, which will help Oregonians build their families when faced with cancer or other conditions that can cause infertility. Oregon families need your support now.

I need your support, along with the 1 in 8 couples in our state living with the disease of infertility and the thousands of Oregonians diagnosed with cancer during their reproductive years.

My husband and I tried for over 2 years unsuccessfully to conceive. We tried alternative therapies, fertility specialists, the works. All at great expense. When I finally did conceive our daughter (using IUI and fertility medication), it was a traumatic pregnancy requiring hospitalized bed rest starting at 28 weeks. Our daughter was born at 31 weeks gestation, weighing under 3 pounds. We spent 6 weeks in the NICU. My body could not safely carry another pregnancy, but we desperately wanted to complete our family and give our daughter a sibling. We opted to find a surrogate to help us bring our son into the world (he's 6 months old now). We took out a loan against our home to make this dream a reality. Because of my unlucky genetics, my husband and I now owe \$75,000 for the birth of our son.

Please support Oregon families like ours and don't make others endure this financial pain (on top of an already painful emotional and physical experience). All families deserve to build the life they want and bring children into this world without going into debt.

It is time for Oregon to update its insurance laws to include coverage for the standard of care for patients with infertility and those diagnosed with cancer or other conditions that may cause infertility. By passing this pro-family legislation, Oregon will join 19 other states across the nation that help hardworking families get access to medically necessary treatments while only minimally impacting insurance premiums, if at all. States with IVF insurance have lower rates of multiple births than states without IVF coverage, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier moms.

Please support Oregon families by moving this pro-family bill forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Tessa and David Stephenson