

Submitter: Nick Haskins  
On Behalf Of: Tracy Palmer  
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.

I have unexplained infertility and what's referred to as "social infertility" because I am a member of the LGBTQ community in a same sex relationship. I do not have infertility insurance coverage. My wife and I struggled for nearly two years to conceive, I underwent 10 IUIs, suffered pregnancy loss, spent over \$30,000 and paid for it all out of pocket. I gave birth to our son in October thanks to the assistance of fertility doctors here in Oregon, but no one should have to go into debt, spend what we spent, and put everything on hold in order for the chance to build their families. I hope that our child knows how hard we fought for him, how much he was loved before he was even here, and the dedication, grit, and love that was present in our journey to becoming parents. My experience with infertility as a queer person has brought advocacy into my life because I don't want anyone to go through the struggle that we did -infertility is hard enough without the immense burden of lack of infertility coverage and inclusive pro-family legislation.

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,

Tracy Palmer  
she/her