

Submitter: Nick Haskins  
On Behalf Of: Laura Townsel  
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 have been trying to conceive for the last ten years. We have experienced four miscarriages and one ectopic pregnancy. We are 0 for 5. We have been to numerous doctors and are currently seeing a fertility specialist, who is unable to determine the problem thus far. For those who have not experienced this situation, let me tell you- this is not a club you want to join. With each pregnancy loss, you feel a piece of yourself break. While this has brought my husband and me closer together, we both struggle with the fact that we may not get what most others seem to have- a family of our own. To seek fertility assistance in the state of Oregon is a costly affair. Any bloodwork or testing that is done, any office visit that has that ICD-10 code of "infertility" is not covered by most insurances, which means you must pay out of pocket. I have yet to see a company that will cover it in this state. Not to mention the psychological hit that comes when seeing that you've been labeled infertile but you've been pregnant five times and just haven't gotten the baby to stick. We both work in healthcare, and the irony of it is... we cannot afford to pay out of pocket for the fertility testing and procedures as most of our paychecks are going towards insurance premiums. The insurance that we are required to have, but does not cover one of our primary healthcare needs. Just in case you were curious, a round of IUI is over \$400, and IVF is approximately \$10,000.

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,

Laura Townsel