

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Bella Mody
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.

For my wife and I, building our family has not been an easy process. After our battle with infertility and a year of failed IUI treatments, we were fortunate to have IVF help us become parents to our son. Our second IVF pregnancy was also a success with our daughter —though it ended tragically in a placental abruption that almost took my wife. We have since then suffered additional loss— all with the added financial burden of IVF. The burden we bear navigating infertility is hard enough. Navigating pregnancy loss and grief while parenting is hard enough. The financial burden that comes with all of this is an unnecessary price to pay in this path to parenthood.

The financial burden, known as the “gay tax” for LGBTQ parents adds to the health disparities faced by many in this group.

This financial burden furthers the inequities already in place in healthcare today.

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,

Bella Mody

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Bella Mody, PT, DPT, OCS