

Submitter: Nick Haskins  
On Behalf Of: Chelsea Simpson  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB1530

Dear Committee Member,

I'm writing to you today in support of SB1530, and I hope that you will support the passing of this bill as well.

My spouse and I have lived in Oregon our entire lives. We grew up on the Oregon coast, got married in Corvallis, and now live in Tigard. We've always wanted to raise a child here in Oregon together, but unfortunately we have been trying for the last two years with no success. Infertility has been the hardest thing we've experienced as a couple. It feels like a never ending cycle of hope and grief every month as we continue to try with nothing to show for our efforts.

I've always considered Oregon to be one of the more progressive states, which is one of the reasons why we had never considered moving out of the state, until we realized how hard it would be to find insurance coverage for infertility in Oregon. Neither of our employers offer this coverage, the closest benefit we have is a 1% discount on treatment packages through a company that has no providers in the state of Oregon. I have looked into purchasing coverage as an individual, but it seems that none of the insurance companies operating in the state of Oregon offer this coverage on their individual plans. So, because of lack of insurance we pay out of pocket, and we are very lucky that we are able to afford to do so, at least with the less expensive treatments. Many Oregonians are not as lucky, and if the less expensive treatments don't work for us then we will have to put off pursuing treatment for a couple of years while we finish saving so that we can afford IVF. Many Oregonians that experience infertility are unable to afford treatment, and depending their diagnosis, might not have time to save for treatment. People are going into debt and mortgaging their homes to be able to afford treatment.

Oregon has been very progressive in ensuring that everyone has access to reproductive health care, except when it comes to the treatment of infertility. Right now the choice to become a parent as an infertile couple is not an equitable decision for everyone. Treatment can be so prohibitively expensive that I would argue that many infertile couples aren't able to make their own reproductive choices at all, the choice is being made by their employer and insurance company instead. 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,

Chelsea Simpson