

Submitter: Nick Haskins
On Behalf Of: Amanda H
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1530

Dear Committee member,

I am writing you today to ask for your consideration on moving SB 1530 forward. Not only would this give those like my husband and myself struggling with infertility the opportunity to seek medical treatments that otherwise may not be an option due to the high cost but would also allow those diagnosed with cancer in their reproductive years access to affordable fertility preservation.

Today I struggle with infertility. My husband and I have been together for 14 years. We have been enduring 11 years of infertility and have been seeking help via a reproductive endocrinologist for 3 very long and painful years. Infertility has been the hardest thing we've experienced. Undergoing test after test with disappointment month after month. IVF is the option we were given if we wanted to try to have the best chance at having a family. IVF cost about \$19k per round with at least half of that being paid upfront. Due to the high cost, we are limited on what treatments we can do and how quickly we can do them. With infertility time is very important, so we were left with a choice. Do we give up our dream of ever having a family of our own or do we try to sell everything we have worked so hard for just to try and afford to further our treatments?

Credit cards, savings, family and friends and still questioning where to get the rest of the money to keep going. Infertility affects both men and women and is defined as a disease of the reproductive system. Defined as the failure to achieve a clinical pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse. Knowing this and knowing it is something you did not cause and have no control of is hard in itself, but it makes it that much worse when money may be the only thing holding you back.

My husband and I both work. My husband works overtime every single week doing a very physical job rotating (2) 12-hour day shifts to (2) 12-hour night shifts and the cost of treatments for some of the things we need are still too expensive. So once again we are left with a choice, do we give up on our dream? Do we wait and continue to save up? I am 33 years old and a woman's egg quality is said to decline after the age of 35. So, time is very important not just for us but others as well experiencing the misfortune of infertility.

We may not have an unlimited amount of money, but we do have an unlimited amount of love to give. I would love to see this bill move forward so we and other Oregonians like us can have the access to the health care we need and a chance to build the family of our dreams.

Please support Oregon families by moving this pro-family bill forward. I strongly believe this is a service all Oregonians should have access to. Thank you for your

time and consideration.

Sincerely, Amanda H