

Submitter: Alyssa Gravelle  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB491

Hello. My name is Alyssa Gravelle and on December 16, 2021 at the age of 31, and 6 weeks after getting married, I was diagnosed with Stage 1 Estrogen & Progesterone Positive/ Her2 negative invasive ductal carcinoma breast cancer. Once I got my diagnosis I did a genetic test and found out I had the TP53 genetic mutation also known as Li Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS). With LFS I am missing the gene that suppresses tumor growth and makes me high risk for all soft tissue cancers including breast, brain, lung, colon, sarcoma, etc. I also have a 50% chance to pass this genetic mutation to any children.

My husband and I decided to pursue IVF to ensure we do not pass down the TP53 genetic mutation to any future children. Since I was doing chemo we had to quickly do two egg retrievals to also make sure that my eggs were not harmed during my treatment. Because of my chemo start date I had 3 days between when I found out I had to do chemo and when I would have to start my egg retrieval. My second egg retrieval which was done through a duo-stim gave me just 30 minutes to make that decision. I am extremely lucky that my insurance covered my egg retrievals as each round was \$30,000. That means people who are not covered through insurance and diagnosed with cancer have to find a way to get \$30,000 in a few days. I see in my LFS support group people having to make the heartbreaking decision over whether or not they can afford to do IVF which is the only way people with LFS (or any genetic mutation) can guarantee that they are bringing healthy babies into this world. It does not feel right that people should either have to come up with an enormous amount of money or take the 50% chance that they will bring a child into this world who will forever require expensive medical care.

I speak for just LFS but there are so many mutations and more they continue to find each year. I am fortunate and relieved that my insurance covers fertility treatments and I am able to stop this horrible mutation from impacting another generation but we need to make sure that everyone who needs fertility treatment has the support from their insurance. The ability to reproduce is a human right and those who are dealt unfortunate circumstances in their life should not be robbed of the opportunity to have a family because of the extreme cost.

Thank you  
Alyssa Gravelle