

Submitter: Candy Emmons  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB491

Hello Senators,

I'm writing today in hopes that hearing my story might encourage you to take action on Senate Bill 491.

Like so many Oregonians (1 in 8 couples!), my husband and I have struggled with infertility. After 3 years of infertility, we were overjoyed to conceive spontaneously in 2020, but unfortunately found out in January of 2021 at our 12 week ultrasound that the pregnancy wasn't viable and I had no option other than to terminate a my very wanted pregnancy. The intervening months since then have been the worst and hardest of my life. We have been unable to conceive a healthy pregnancy during that time and have been diagnosed with "unexplained infertility". At this point it seems unlikely that we will be able to conceive without intervention.

The pathway to growing our family will be a complicated one, and we don't know what it will look like. I hope that someday when I see you at a gathering or event, I'll be able to speak to you as a mother - something I've always wanted to be.

When you experience infertility, unless you are wealthy, you are stuck. Simple treatments that may only cost a couple hundred dollars with insurance coverage (such as hormone pills or in-office procedures), suddenly are cost prohibitive. Procedures that are otherwise covered are no longer even considered once you have an infertility diagnoses. More expensive and invasive procedures such as IVF (which are sometimes medically required), should be the "end of the road" for couples--but many can't afford to try and fail with more simple procedures, so they go to the extreme option in hopes of success. Couples who struggle with infertility spend on average \$25k to have a baby without insurance coverage--money they could be spending sending that child to college, paying for living expenses, etc.

16 other states require private insurance to cover at least some medical care related to infertility. Oregon families deserve that same protection and coverage.

I'm glad to speak to any of you 1:1 about this issue if more information would be helpful, just let me know. I know there are so many other critical issues before you this year--but I hope you recognize that for women and families struggling with infertility--every month we have to wait is another lost chance to grow our families.

Warm Regards,

Candy Emmons