

Submitter: Amanda Hurner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB491

My name is Amanda Hurner. I am writing today to express my support for SB 491 and I ask for your consideration and support for this bill as well. SB 491 would require health benefit plans to cover fertility and reproductive endocrinology services. I strongly believe this is a service all Oregonians should have access to. Not only would this give those like me 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 over 14 years. We have been enduring 11 years of infertility and have been seeking help via a reproductive endocrinologist for the last 3 plus years. Due to the high cost of treatments, we are limited on what treatments we can do and how quickly we can do them. With Infertility time is very important and 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 for just to try and afford the treatments? Credit cards, savings, family and friends and still wondering where to get the rest to keep going. Infertility affects both men and women and is defined as a disease of the reproductive system. Defined by 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 ever single week doing a 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 save up? I am 34years old and a women's egg quality is said to decline after the age of 35. So, time is very important not just for me but others as well experiencing the misfortune of infertility.

We may not have unlimited amounts of money, but we do have an unlimited amount of love to give, and we just ask for your support in passing SB 491 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.

I don't want to talk up too much of your time as I know you are very busy, so I'm going to end here with saying thank you so much for your time and considering my request and I urge you to please reach out to me with any questions you may have regarding my personal experience with infertility as there is so much more to say on this issue. Again, thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Amanda Hurner