

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Javadi and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deb Patterson, State Senator from SD 10, which includes South and West Salem, Monmouth and Independence, and part of Four Corners.

I am writing in strong support of HB 2959, which would provide coverage for IVF services and would like to thank Representative Neron for bringing this bill. This is an issue dear to my heart.

Many Oregonians struggle with infertility issues, and the cost for fertility treatments when borne out of pocket is significant, as my husband and I discovered many years ago. Yet the shared cost for medical care, which is the sole reason for the existence of health insurance, significantly brings down the cost for families and adds little to the overall cost per subscriber.

Most other conditions related to reproductive healthcare are covered, and IVF is included in the PEBB and OEBB plans. HB 2959 recommends coverage at least equal to that provided by these plans.

Our birthrate in Oregon is falling for a number of reasons, including the significant costs of raising a child. Adding to these costs by asking prospective parents to pay for needed reproductive healthcare should not be among those barriers.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. I urge your strong support for HB 2959.

Sincerely,

Deb Patterson