



# The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

**April 3, 2025**

## **ACOG statement regarding SB 535 Fertility Coverage**

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden and members of the committee, my name is Dr. Julia Barnes and I am a physician licensed in Obstetrics and Gynecology. On behalf of myself, my patients and the 712 practicing ob-gyns of the Oregon Section of ACOG, we would like to express our support for HB 2959, insurance coverage for fertility services.

Infertility impacts the lives of both men and women. The desire to create a family is strong and should be available without discrimination.

As I OB/GYN I see many women who struggle with infertility. For many the costs of the testing, labs, medications, and treatment are outside their financial ability. They hope for a family and are devastated when they are unable to conceive. One family in which the husband has aspermia, needed to have IVF treatments, and finally was able to conceive a beautiful baby girl with donor sperm. Another woman had PCOS and just needed some ovulation medication and IUI to become pregnant with her baby boy. Fertility treatments change lives and make families whole.

This bill helps eliminate the socio-economic disparities between racial and ethnic minorities as well as disparities based on sexual orientation for those striving to create a family. Fertility services should be for all who want a family, not just for the privileged and wealthy. It also helps protect those who may have infertility due to cancer treatments where ovarian or testicular tissue may need to be preserved for future use.

I would ask on behalf of Oregon ACOG that you support SB 535 allowing insurance coverage for fertility services.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.