

Submitter: Payton Cruz  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB535

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Payton, and I am here to share my deeply personal journey with infertility in support of SB 535. For the past seven years, I have been trying to have a child—seven years filled with hope, heartbreak, and immense financial and emotional strain.

I have worked full-time in healthcare for 12 years, dedicating my career to supporting others. Yet, despite my long-standing commitment to this field, my employer does not provide IVF coverage. In an effort to access the care I desperately need, I took on a second job with a company that does offer IVF benefits. However, to qualify, I must work at least 20 hours per week for six months before I can receive coverage.

Meanwhile, I pursued a medicated IUI treatment, holding onto the hope that this would be the solution. But my body was under extreme stress—working two jobs while undergoing emotionally and physically taxing fertility treatments. I truly believe this stress contributed to my IUI's failure. Infertility already places an enormous burden on individuals and couples, and the added stress of financial strain and inaccessibility to proper medical care only makes it worse.

Determined to find another path forward, I started my own small business to raise money for IVF. The dream of starting a family has been with me since I was a young girl. When people asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I would answer with different careers—a teacher, a singer, a veterinarian—but deep down, my heart always whispered one true dream: to be a mother. To have a baby. To build a family.

This journey has taken a significant toll on my mental and emotional well-being. I have faced severe depression, struggling to navigate the rollercoaster of infertility. It is heartbreaking that, in our state, so many individuals are forced to go to such great lengths just to access basic fertility care. Parenthood should not be a privilege reserved only for those who can afford it—it should be an accessible right for anyone longing to build a family.

This is why SB 535 is so critical. Passing this bill would mean that others like me will not have to work multiple jobs, drain their savings, or put their health at risk just for the chance to conceive. It would provide hope and fairness to those who are struggling with infertility, ensuring that they have access to the care they need without added financial barriers.

I urge you to support SB 535 and give individuals and families in Oregon a fighting chance at the dream of parenthood. Thank you for your time and for considering the impact this legislation will have on so many lives.

Sincerely,  
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