

Submitter: Erin Murphy Perez  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB535

As an Oregon resident who cares deeply about those struggling to build their family in our state, I strongly urge you to pass SB 535, which will help Oregonians build their families when faced with infertility, cancer or other conditions that can cause infertility. Oregon families need your support now. As a woman struggling with fertility the past 5 years, I feel compelled to share more personally. I knew from a young age I wanted to help others and in college, decided to pursue my doctorate in psychology. I devoted my 20s to 9 years of post high school education and achieved my goal by graduating with my doctorate in clinical psychology in 2014. I dedicated my early 30s to my residency, becoming licensed, and beginning my career at the VA serving veterans. I did not anticipate nor would I have guessed that I would struggle with fertility when I chose to prioritize my career. This is not to say I would do things differently. I love my job treating PTSD in our nation's veterans. My husband is a combat veteran himself and is now a student at OSU studying to be a physical therapist. We pursue our goals with passion to improve our lives and those of others. To put all of our effort toward building our family each month and not achieve our goal is devastating and financially draining. We have struggled for 5 years. That's roughly 60 months of ovulation strips, handfuls of supplements daily, diet changes, 60 negative pregnancy tests, 6 failed rounds of IUI, countless medical tests and procedures, and injections. It's 60 months of acupuncture, chiropractic work, teas, seed cycling, and support groups. While the emotional and psychological toll cannot be alleviated by this bill, the financial one can. I need your support, along with the 1 in 6 in our state living with the disease of infertility and the thousands of Oregonians diagnosed with cancer during their reproductive years. It is time for Oregonians to receive comprehensive insurance coverage for the medical care needed to build their families. As proven in other states, insurance covering vitro fertilization (IVF) decreases the chance of multiple births, and lowering multiple births decreases overall health care costs and results in healthier babies and healthier parents. Please support Oregon families by moving SB 535, the Oregon Family-Building Act, forward. Thank you! Sincerely, Erin Murphy Perez