

Submitter: Lauren Cycyk  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB535

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of SB 535, which would require health insurance coverage of essential fertility services and treatments and a study of fertility treatment access. As someone who has personally experienced the challenges of multiple pregnancy losses and infertility, I understand firsthand toll that these struggles place on individuals and families and the desperate need for support that you are in the position to provide with this bill. My husband and I have been trying 5 years to grow our family. We have experienced three pregnancy losses and have undergone multiple fertility treatments with our doctors in Portland. These treatments are not only grueling emotionally and physically, but they are incredibly expensive. We have been extremely fortunate to have some fertility coverage through my employer. Still, we have had to take out multiple loans to cover the treatments that are not covered by insurance, and there are many! We know that we so lucky that we are in the financial position to incur the debts, but we have made hard many choices to sustain our dream of becoming parents. During this painful journey, we have come to connect with other individuals and families on their own painful infertility journeys. Most don't have any financial support at all.

Infertility is not merely an inconvenience—it is a medical condition that affects millions of people, yet treatment remains out of reach for many due to prohibitive costs. For those of us who have faced pregnancy loss and infertility, the journey is often filled with uncertainty, heartbreak, and an overwhelming sense of isolation. The inability to access necessary treatments due to financial barriers compounds this pain and denies many the opportunity to build the families they so deeply long for.

This Act is a necessary step toward ensuring that Oregonians have equitable access to fertility treatments. By mandating insurance coverage for specified fertility services, it provides hope to individuals and couples who would otherwise be unable to afford medical interventions. Additionally, the directive to study access to fertility and reproductive endocrinology services is crucial. Understanding the gaps in care and the barriers faced by those seeking treatment will allow for informed policy decisions that better serve our communities.

The emergency designation of this Act underscores the urgent need for action. Every day that passes without accessible fertility care means another day of anguish for those struggling with infertility and pregnancy loss. I urge the committee to advance this legislation and support individuals and families on their paths to parenthood.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

~Lauren Cycyk