

Over 172,000
Wisconsinites
experience infertility.

Many can't afford
medically necessary
fertility treatments.

Together, we can
change that!



Legislation to remove barriers to ensure all Wisconsinites can achieve their dreams of becoming parents!

WWW.BUILDINGFAMILIESWI.ORG

- ✓ INFERTILITY IS A DISEASE
- ✓ COST FOR TREATMENT IS A KEY BARRIER
- ✓ INFERTILITY LEGISLATION IS PRO-FAMILY

Infertility does not discriminate – it cuts across all socioeconomic levels, and all racial, ethnic and religious lines. Infertility impacts 1 in 8, but women of color experience infertility at even higher rates than their white counterparts. Despite these higher rates of infertility, Black women are less likely to access treatment and if they do, may wait twice as long before seeking help.

Individuals are infertile for a host of reasons: injury, wounds sustained in combat, medical condition, or treatment for other conditions such as cancer, sickle cell anemia, Type 1 diabetes, some auto-immune diseases, and more. And LGBTQ+ families/couples sadly face many layers of barriers including medical, legal, and limited access on how they can pursue a family.

The American Medical Association, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the World Health Organization recognize infertility as a disease. The American Society for Clinical Oncology has issued guidelines that all at-risk patients should be informed about fertility preservation before the start of potentially sterilizing cancer treatment.

For too many families the financial burden is the greatest challenge they must overcome to fulfill their dreams of parenthood. Infertility care is cost prohibitive for most, particularly for low- to middle-income people. Most patients pay out of pocket for fertility treatment, which can amount to well over \$10,000 depending on the services received.

Currently, millions of Wisconsinites pay monthly premiums for insurance coverage, yet insurers are not required to cover the standard of care for infertility patients or cancer patients and others at risk of medically-induced infertility.

The **Wisconsin Building Families Act** recognizes infertility as a disease and will **expand access and remove economic barriers to fertility treatment by requiring health plans to cover infertility treatment and fertility preservation services.**

1 in 8 couples have trouble getting pregnant or sustaining a pregnancy. This does not account for LGBTQ+ or single individuals who may also need fertility treatments.

Only 1 in 4 access the care they need to overcome infertility.

40% of infertile women suffer from anxiety & depression - twice the rate seen in fertile women.

Both men & women are affected by infertility equally.

32% of small employers (50-499 employees) cover some type of infertility service.

70% report spending \$10,000 or more to build their family

19 states including Illinois have passed fertility insurance coverage laws. 13 of those laws include IVF coverage & 11 states have fertility preservation laws for medically-induced infertility.

Comprehensive reviews of states with mandated infertility benefits show that the cost of infertility coverage is less than 1% of the total premium cost.