

Date: March [REDACTED], 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: [REDACTED]

RE: Support HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the Committee:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing to express **support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care**, which will help create a future in which everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

- Time and again, Oregonians have affirmed their support for making abortion safe and accessible to all. This state has long valued the right to choose when and whether to start a family and the right to bodily autonomy.
- The *Dobbs* decision worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. The race to criminalize access to health care will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.
- HB 2002 centers those who face the most barriers to accessing care in policy-making and resourcing. The recommendations from Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group were developed in lockstep with impacted communities, providers, and organizations working on the ground to meet this moment. These recommendations include but are not limited to:
 - **Protecting Providers and Health Centers:**
 - Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon
 - Preventing interference with health care centers and protecting providers from harassment and abuse
 - Ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of providers is protected
 - **Expanding Access to Care:**
 - Closing gaps in: insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities
 - Enhancing access to care in medically-underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program
 - Addressing reproductive health care deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions
 - **Ensuring Fundamental Rights:**
 - Protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state
 - Codifying the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care
 - Preventing individuals from being criminalized for any pregnancy outcome

- Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.
- Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right.
- Washington state enacted very similar legislation to this bill in 2021, and there has been very little fiscal impact to the state. Like any other form of life-saving health care, gender-affirming care should be accessible.
- For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. Eighteen states currently have abortion bans or serious restrictions in effect, including our neighbor Idaho. This decreased access exacerbates existing reproductive health care deserts, especially in Eastern Oregon, as our state experiences a surge in out-of-state patients.

Use 1-2 of the Messaging bullet points above.

Add 3-5 sentences about why this bill is impactful to your life and/or community. This is where you should really hone in on the impact and importance of HB 2002 by weaving in your lived experience and personal story.

This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Your name