



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Policy Director
In Support of House Bill 2589
House Judiciary Committee
February 26, 2019**

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹ supports HB 2589, which would remove outdated and offensive language in Oregon’s employment and anti-discrimination laws.

As an organization with a long history of supporting and defending the LGBTQ community, we believe HB 2589 is an important bill to ensure that the language in Oregon law reflects our values and upholds the dignity of transgender Oregonians.

As it is currently written, the language in ORS 659A.118 and in ORS 659A.130 is offensive and degrading.² HB 2589 removes this outdated and demeaning language, supporting equal dignity for transgender Oregonians.

The bill also clarifies the fact that a person’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity are not a physical or mental disability. Changing this language makes clear that sexual orientation and gender identity are, themselves, inherent identities, separate and apart from a person’s diagnosed medical or mental health conditions.

It is important to note that the bill does not negatively impact Oregon’s anti-discrimination laws or the ability of people with disabilities to obtain workplace accommodations.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Oregon urges you to support House Bill 2589. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 45,000 members and supporters statewide.

² This includes the use of the word “transvestism,” listed as a “condition” akin to...pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism or other sexual behavior disorders.”