

April 14th, 2021

Hello Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith. My name is Killian Lynch and I am from Forest Grove, which is in Oregon's 1st Congressional District. I am testifying in support of House Bill 5024, which allocates funding to the Oregon Health Authority for essential sexual and reproductive healthcare services, and to urge you to prioritize federal funding from the American Rescue Plan on The People's Budget.

These past three years I've spent working on my undergraduate degree in Public Health. My studies have absolutely given me a unique perspective on the current global health crisis. Speaking from whatever level of expertise this entitles me to, I'm confident this investment in Oregon's public health is the right step towards recovery.

In Oregon we pride ourselves on being ahead in reproductive healthcare policy, but there is no choice without access. That's why I'm first asking you to prioritize passing HB5024. Medicaid is a vital source of health coverage and a major funder of reproductive health services nationally. Approximately one in five women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid to access no-cost, critical reproductive health care such as birth control, life-saving cancer screenings, and maternity care. Family planning is a smart investment for Oregon taxpayers. In fact, the Contraceptive Care program is one of the most cost-effective state programs; it saved the state \$22.8 million from the reduction in unintended pregnancy in 2017 alone. Policies that center the values of reproductive justice lift the quality of life for all members of a community.

My passionate support for HB5024 extends far beyond my academic interests in public health; access to reproductive healthcare and reproductive justice is personal to me and my community. I am incredibly grateful that I was able to access birth control from a relatively young age. Both of my parents are

physicians, and when I started high school they recognized the importance of allowing me choice over my own body. It is only because of the access I had and the autonomy it provided me that I have been able to enroll in my university and find my life's passion. Had I been uninsured, or born into a less fortunate family, I might have been limited to a much different life. I certainly would not have the same emotional safety and security that has been necessary for me as a full time student. There's no good reason that I should have these opportunities when others do not, which is why I urge you to support HB5024, so fewer people miss out on their life's passion.

I'm also here to testify in support of The People's Budget, and urge you to prioritize federal funding from ARPA on The People's Budget. I believe Oregon's economic recovery should primarily focus on Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ2SIA+. Investments that are rooted in racial, gender, and economic justice are what this moment calls for. Now is not the time for Oregon to save money or cut budgets.

By prioritizing the policies included in The People's Budget and the needed advancements in funding for healthcare and education via HB5024, you will build an equity-based budget that ensures Oregon emerges stronger than before and is ready to weather future storms. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give feedback.

Killian Lynch