



Testimony in Support of HB 3041

April 9, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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Good afternoon Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the Committee.

My name is Akil Patterson, and I serve as the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) Political Organizer.

Today I submit, to you, testimony in support of HB 3041 on behalf of ONA's 15,000 registered nurses, the Nurse Practitioners of Oregon, and professional member affiliates throughout the state. I am honored to represent them and serve as a voice for our member organization.

ONA supports HB 3041, which would rightly improve the state's legal difference between Sex and Gender should reflect the use of two terms that are different "Gender identity" and "Sexual Orientation." The difference between male and female sexes is both anatomical and psychological; while the genetic factors defined the sex of an individual, the gender of an individual is not defined by their sex.

A person's 46 chromosomes are primarily Xs for women, while males have both X and Y chromosomes, which are dominant and allow for growing testis, otherwise known as male body parts. Honestly, there is no difference because men have both X&Y and women often have X, but there are cis born or Women born with female body parts who have both, although the Y chromosome is not dominant. Both men and women have estrogen and progesterone levels, and a male often has higher levels of testosterone.

Healthcare is a practice of many sciences; Our members practice nursing or are professionals in nursing. There is no definitive way in science to do anything or quantify everything for everyone. We use best practices, test the subject matter in working as a team the right regiment is found. This does not mean that we all follow the same for our bedside manner, for our community outreach, and to comfort human souls when they are sick. There is no definitive way to treat every patient the same, and we believe the same in how we define people.

Sexual orientation is not the same as someone's gender identity, nor is your sex the same as your gender. The dictionary describes these as two different things, and so if our legislative body wants to ensure that we are encompassing a diverse and more accepting culture the passage of this bill is needed.

ONA supports HB 3041, and we ask that you vote favorably to move the bill out of committee.