

Submitter: Raevyn Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

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As someone who works with youth ages 10-18 years old in Lane County and surrounding areas, I am in full support of bill HB2458. Part of working with youth or providing health services and care to youth and adults includes ethical practices. These ethical practices require youth serving professionals to avoid causing harm to clients and individuals. LGBTQIA+ youth and individuals experience more negative mental health and health outcomes due to social/familial pressures and expectations, systemic oppression and discrimination, and religious intolerance. Folks who are subjected to conversion therapy efforts are put at an additional and extremely high risk for increased mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide. Oregon can lead the path to changing the narrative of not only how we see and view the LGBTQIA+ community, but how we can better support them and their experience. Oregon can lead the path in developing a safer and understanding community and State our LGBTQIA+ youth feel safe to grow and flourish in.