

Date: March 16, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Migdalia, PPAO Legislative & Electoral Fellow

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Migdalia, I am a Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon fellow and a current employee at a Planned Parenthood health center. 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.

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.

As a BIPOC this is very important to me because unfortunately the people most impacted are people of color and low-income families. Not only is abortion a very personal decision, why someone chooses an abortion shouldn't matter to anyone else. But safe, legal access to abortion and other reproductive health care should be available to all. It would be unfortunate that they are now facing the threat of criminalization. As a staff member in a Planned Parenthood health center, I want to feel safe and know that my work history won't impact my future in a negative way or feel shameful.

Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right.

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

Sincerely,
Migdalia