

Submitter: Anna Shogren

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

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

I am writing, with deep care & concern, to express support for House Bill 2002: Reproductive Health and Access to Care. It is essential that we create a future in which every person 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.

The catastrophic Dobbs decision has seriously exacerbated the public health crisis around abortion care. This race to criminalize access to health care will only deepen health inequities, seriously endanger lives, and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families in our community are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender-affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQIA+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As basic human rights for transgender people in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQIA+ rights and health care access for all.

For the past two years, I have volunteered with a local collective to provide direct practical support to abortion-seekers in our community, including providing rides to & from clinics, meals for travelers who are staying in local hotels to receive health care, and aftercare kits to make their medical care experience a little bit more comfortable. For too many Oregonians, including the remarkable neighbors & community members I've had the privilege of supporting, reproductive & gender-affirming care are still out-of-reach due to 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.

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

Sincerely,

Anna Shogren