



3/16/2023

Oregon Legislature  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Dear Chairman Nosse, Vice-chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Committee Members,

**The Oregon Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Oregon NOW) strongly supports passage of HB 2002.** This bill aligns with NOW's most important priorities, specifically reproductive rights and justice and LGBTQIA+ Rights. At a time when some state legislatures are attempting to deny reproductive and gender affirming health treatment and interfere with the rights of other states to provide such care, this legislation strengthens our protections for this medical care. Some key facets of this bill are:

**This bill declares that reproductive health care is a fundamental personal right of individuals** and provides criminal and civil penalties for those who interfere with this right.

The bill also protects providers of reproductive health care against attempts to interfere with this right (including legislation in other states that attempts to prevent Oregon from providing this right) and prevents malpractice carriers from taking adverse actions against providers solely because they are providers.

The bill expands access to reproductive health care by requiring health centers at public universities in our state to provide such care.

*The bill also strengthens guarantees of gender affirming treatment* in Oregon by providing that an insurance carrier offering a health benefit plan in this state may not deny or limit coverage under the plan for gender-affirming treatment that is medically necessary and prescribed in accordance with accepted standards of care or deny such medically necessary treatment by claiming it is merely cosmetic.

The Oregon Health Authority or a coordinated care organization must also follow these rules for gender affirming care.

The bill also provides for certification of practitioners of reproductive and gender affirming care.

**Oregon NOW strongly encourages you to pass this bill.**

Respectfully,  
Kim Critelli  
President Oregon NOW

Nancy Cook  
Legislative Chair, Oregon NOW