

Submitter: Don Holt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

This bill is not good for Oregon. Oregon needs strong families and this bill removes parental authority and counsel, which severely weakens the family.

Good parenting is necessary to insure young people learn to make good decisions and is also necessary to help youths when they've made a poor decision. The state is not a good parent; just look at the DSHS record on foster care. Any single medical professional is also not a good parent to a child client. The medical professional can recommend or perform a procedure, but they are not in a position to be intimate, caring formators of the child, nor are they likely to be available to help when a child makes a poor decision or regrets a prior decision.

It is well known that young minds are not fully formed to make rational decisions until about age 25. This knowledge is being applied to youths in our courts as regards sentencing, by not giving the same sentence as would be given an adult with the same crime. Applying this to the medical care addressed in this bill, we need to require that parents of minors be informed of their child's desires and intentions, so that they may guide them, walk with them, and pick up the pieces when needed.

Please do not forward this bill as it stands. Keep parents in the know.