

Submitter: Michael Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Smith; I reside in Portland, Oregon. I wear a lot of hats within the Democratic Party, but thirty years ago my main activism was clinic defense. In those days, when we thought Roe might be overturned and as Casey became the new law of the land, I worked with other activists to stop Operation Rescue from closing clinics in Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL.

It is upsetting to me, but not surprising, that we are still fighting this fight in 2023. With Roe v. Wade no longer the law of the land and conservative legislatures across the nation threatening pregnant persons with prison, death, and bankruptcy for seeking what should be routine medical care, it is unfortunately necessary for Oregon to move in the other direction and reaffirm that we will protect reproductive healthcare for everyone. HB 2002 is a huge step in the right direction.

In particular, HB 2002 would:

- Encode the right to pharmaceutical contraception into law
- Affirm that, "Every individual has a fundamental right to make decisions about the individual's reproductive health, including the right to make decisions about the individual's reproductive health care, to use or refuse contraception, to continue the individual's pregnancy and give birth or to terminate the individual's pregnancy."
- Offer relief, including awards of attorney's fees, to any person whose reproductive autonomy is threatened by civil action.

We need this bill, and I urge its swift passage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Smith