

March 18, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Skyler Howe

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Skyler Howe, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care. This bill 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.

Access to healthcare and to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortion care and gender-affirming care, is a human right. In the aftermath of the *Dobbs* decision and with hundreds of bills being introduced across the country attacking the rights of transgender individuals, there has never been a more important time for Oregon to continue to stand as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and healthcare access.

Though I currently live in Portland, I was born and grew up in Central Oregon. The gap in reproductive healthcare access between urban and rural Oregon is clear, and something that many individuals, including myself, have experienced. All Oregonians deserve access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, regardless of where in the state they reside, and HB 2002 will take steps to enhance access in medically-underserved regions of Oregon.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2002 for the good of all Oregonians. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Skyler Howe