

Date: March 19, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Em Bookstein

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Em Bookstein, a resident and voter in Portland. **I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care**, which will help create a future in which every person in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own body and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced in state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

These issues are personal to me and my community. My partner, who is my best friend and my most beloved person, received two gender-affirming surgeries that have had a huge impact on their well-being. I was deeply grateful to see them receive care from medical professionals who treated them with respect and thoughtfulness, and at the same time it's bittersweet because so many trans people have not been able to access care like that. I hope to one day myself receive surgery and picture a life for myself that is more fulfilling and more joyful because of it. I want EVERYONE to be able to receive the medical care they need to live their most fulfilled lives, starting here, in Oregon, where we have a chance to set the bar for medical care, access, and freedom.

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

Sincerely,

Em Bookstein