

Submitter: Kayleigh OMalley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 19th, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Insert your name (and organization, if applicable)

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Kayleigh O'Malley and I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, which 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.

For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender-affirming care are still out of reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. Eighteen states currently have abortion bans or serious restrictions in effect, including our neighbor Idaho. This decreased access exacerbates existing reproductive healthcare deserts, especially in Eastern Oregon, as our state experiences a surge in out-of-state patients.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender-affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to 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 healthcare access.

We are living in a time where self-acceptance is becoming more and more important for individuals to possess, yet it is harder and harder to achieve because of the judgment passed on to one another. This phenomenon is dictating the future of our legislature and prevents individuals from obtaining basic human rights and even the right to live. This is Oregon's time to be on the right side of history by providing gender-affirming care to each of its people, to bring justice to those that have endured too much suffering as it is.

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

Sincerely,

Kayleigh Marie O'Malley