

March 20, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support House Bill 2002

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Jessica McBride and I am a resident of Beaverton. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 2002, which would continue to protect and expand our right and access to the full spectrum of reproductive health and gender-affirming care in Oregon.

Several of my close friends, some of whom live in more rural areas of Oregon have been told never to become pregnant as they would die from complications. It's extremely important to me that everyone has access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming care, no matter their zip code.

In order to achieve racial, economic, and gender justice for all, we must have the rights, resources, and recognition of everyone to control their bodies, lives, and futures. Access to the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender-affirming health care is a basic human right. However, we are seeing attacks across the country that are attempting to deny people their rights with efforts to ban and restrict access to abortion, and gender-affirming care.

In Oregon, we can ensure our right to the full spectrum of reproductive health and gender-affirming care is protected and accessible with HB 2002, which would:

- **Protect providers and patients:** Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender-affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon and protecting individuals from criminal and civil liability for supporting, or providing reproductive healthcare.
- **Expand Access:** Closing gaps in insurance coverage for gender-affirming care and reproductive healthcare. Addressing reproductive healthcare deserts by expanding services.

- **Ensure Fundamental Rights:** Codify the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care and protect the privacy of individuals who receive, support, or provide reproductive and gender-affirming care.

With the *Dobbs* decision, states across the country are moving aggressively to ban abortion and criminalize care. This bill will make sure that reproductive health providers and people seeking abortion are protected.

The decision to overturn *Roe* worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. The race to criminalize access to health care will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.

This legislation shows Oregonians: we're listening.

As Oregonians, we can all agree that every person deserves to make their own decisions about our bodies and our medical care. To achieve that ideal, we need to protect the right to abortion and gender-affirming care and make that care accessible to *all* Oregonians. For these reasons, I urge your support for House Bill 2002 and ask you to pass it out of committee.

Respectfully,
Jessica McBride