

Submitter: Brick Lantz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

As a physician & surgeon in Oregon for over 30 years, thank you for your concern regarding healthcare for Oregon residents. This bill refers to us as "providers" rather than professionals. I prefer not to be thought of as a vending machine, but as one professing what is good & right. Healthcare does not always mean to affirm. This is true for all of medicine including lifestyle choices that are harmful, such as drugs, alcohol, and promiscuous sex. History is fraught with poor decisions by the medical community when they are misled by false science and popular ideas. One of many examples is the barbaric procedure of frontal lobotomies performed for decades, even in my lifetime, for which the developer won a Nobel prize in 1949. This led to numerous deaths and permanent damage to many. This bill even mentions psychosurgery. Ideas have consequences and bad ideas have victims. HB 2002 is a conglomerate of bad healthcare ideas. "Gender affirming" care and surgery are headed towards the same path, especially with children and adolescents. A progressive Washington Post columnist states we are "not to rush past the point of no return when the stakes are high." The science is not settled and irreversible damage will lead to a flood of lawsuits by detransitioners in the near future. WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender Health) states "In most children, gender dysphoria will disappear before, or early in puberty." Studies demonstrate up to 94% of children, 73% - 94%, with gender dysphoria will identify with their biological sex after puberty. There is no other issue in medicine, with those statistics, in which irreversible damage is allowed. HB 2002 uses the term "accepted standards of care." This is not true. One of the world's largest gender transition facilities, Tavistock in UK, as well as others shut down because of the harm being done to youth. This includes cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, neurological, and endocrine harm as well as permanent sterilization. Mental health is improved with desistance. Long term studies, 5-10 years, show the suicide rate is higher for those that undergo gender transition as opposed to those that do not. Gender dysphoria is real and my patients with this disorder as well as anyone in the LGBTQ community are treated with compassion and respect. No prepubertal child is cognitively able to anticipate the impact of puberty blockers, cross sex hormonal therapy, or surgery. True care for minors includes therapy to help them become comfortable in their birth anatomy. Transgender affirming medicine reinforces radical autonomy, unhinged from age restrictions, biology, even the purpose of medicine. No healthcare professional would offer liposuction for an adolescent with anorexia if requested. HB 2002 mentions university health centers but makes no exceptions for religious institutions. There are many sections in this bill that will harm the physician's ability to practice according to their conscience. which is so important to the freedom in our society as well as the practice of medicine in our communities. Would you want to be treated by a

healthcare professional that is unable to practice according to their values, ethics, and conscience? This would erode trust which is crucial to the doctor-patient relationship. Medical abortion is causing significant number of deaths and hospitalizations because safeguards are ignored. Chemical abortions have greater than four times higher complication rates compared to surgical abortions. HB 2002 will make this worse. I am still baffled and embarrassed that we are 1 of 7 states that allow abortion at full term in which the length of the birth canal is the short distance between life & death for some. Every individual has worth. Let's practice evidence based healthcare. We want the good, the true, and the beautiful to flourish. If autonomy becomes too idolized in a culture at the expense of beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice, medical care suffers.