

Submitter: Jenessa Olson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Dear Legislators of Oregon,

As a current medical student, I'm writing in support of HB 2002. This bill provides essential supportive measures towards gender affirming care that can greatly improve the mental health of and be lifesaving for transgender and nonbinary community members. With Oregon currently having some of the highest reported unmet needs in mental health across the country, supporting this bill would provide care to help meet this critical need in Oregon.

In addition, the right for women to have autonomy with their health is important now more than ever given the increasing restrictions across the nation. I have friends who after having the misfortune of a miscarriage, have needed essential medication and treatment to prevent further damage. Restricting this treatment can result in harm to the patient's health and create higher healthcare costs. Furthermore, these restrictions further increase the gap regarding those who can access reproductive healthcare, as only those patients who can afford to travel have access to care.

As a future healthcare provider looking out for the rights and best interest of future patients in the state of Oregon, I ask for your support with this bill to honor every patient's autonomy and right to make choices regarding their health and the treatment they receive.