

Submitter: C M

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Thank you for taking the time to review the bill. I strongly support changes to the bill to add protections for people receiving reproductive and gender-affirming care. First, on reproductive care, I would like to mention that as a person who has survived childhood sexual abuse, it was vital for me to have access to resources without fear of retaliation. Thankfully, I received essential care services, justice, and reproductive care as a young girl. I want to point out that young girls (assigned female at birth) at risk of pregnancy can come before puberty (age 12). By the time women reach the age of 25, the reported statistic of experiencing sexual abuse is over 80%. Typically, youth are still covered by parental insurance until age 25. I benefitted from private medical treatment to mitigate the risk and potentially life-long consequences of untreated Sexually Transmitted Diseases (infertility). I have also been able to heal and be an active member of the community as a scientist thanks to my early access to private medical care, support from friends in college struggling with assault, and control of my bodily autonomy. I am proud to be an Oregonian and for my tax dollars to support the care and privacy of people who wish to care for their health.

I also wanted to extend my support to people who are seeking care for gender-affirming care. I want to mention that gender-affirming care for young persons can include hormone blockers to delay puberty until a child turns 18 or later in life. Hormone blockers can afford individuals a reduced transition cost if they continue pursuing it. The process of receiving gender-affirming care is extensive (for minors especially). During the process, people must undergo months of psychological evaluation and multiple/repeated confirmations of care by their medical teams. The psych and medical teams are in communication. Additionally, I would like to point out that persons harassing trans people target a vulnerable population already at risk of suicide, violence, and homelessness. I am grateful that there are more resources and fewer people who suffer in their experience and can receive care with their consent... and without the harmful control and interference of people projecting onto the identity of others.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimonial. I signed this document with my initials for confidentiality and safety reasons.