

Submitter: Brianna Schmid

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Hello,

My name is Brianna. I am 23 years old and am a resident of Eugene, Oregon. I thank you for taking the time to read this. The words I write now have the potential to profoundly impact my life and the lives of every trans person in this state. I want to start by telling you that I am not a native Oregonian. I moved here from Kansas City, Missouri in April of 2022. I moved here primarily to be with the love of my life, a true Oregonian. It was a decision I did not make lightly. I abandoned my home, my friends and family, and my career. I did this because I had come to the point in my life where I could no longer bear to hide in the closet anymore. I made the decision to flee Missouri's bigoted legislation and to try and find a home in a more accepting state. I've found that not much has changed, actually, aside from it being easier to change my name and gender marker. I would like to rewind a little bit, however. I want to tell you what a profound impact this bill would have on my life.

On February 25, 2021, I made the best decision I've ever made in my life. I took my first dose of estradiol. It was only a small blue-ish green pill. But as I opened that bottle, I realized my hands were shaking. I knew that after that medication dissolved under my tongue, that my life would be much harder, but that it would be worth it. I made that choice and I'd make it again. I do not know that I would be here to write this had I not.

I've since moved to estradiol valerate injections, and I look forward to stabbing myself every week. In the words of Lindsey Spero, a floridian trans man, it is my "sacred and weekly ritual." I would pay any cost to keep doing this ritual. It has not only helped me survive, but it has helped me live.

There are many aspects of gender transition that are inaccessible to me due to one simple factor. I lack the funds. Electrolysis, facial feminization surgery, breast augmentation, and gender confirmation surgery are all out of my reach. This bill would be a huge step towards rectifying that. This bill means more to people like me than anyone could know. It doesn't just mean that I'd be saving money, it means hope.

If passed, House Bill 2002 would be life changing. It would be the first time in my life that I've ever felt that a government had my back. That they were holding up their end of the social contract.

Again, I thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope that my words and the words of people like me have reached you.

Sincerely,
Brianna Thalia Schmid