



# community alliance of tenants

March 17, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: The Community Alliance of Tenants

RE: Support HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the Committee:

The Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) believes housing is a fundamental human right. As a housing advocacy organization, we continue advocating to expand affordable housing in all areas of our state. Access to gender-affirming healthcare and reproductive services is just as crucial as housing. Thus, House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, is firmly endorsed by CAT.

HB 2002 aims to close the insurance coverage gap for gender-affirming services, provide access to contraception on OHP, and provide reproductive healthcare at public universities. Additionally, the proposed bill aims to protect the provider's capacity to provide care to all patients, improve access to care in medically underserved regions, and ensure healthcare equitably for all Oregonians.

Safeguarding the ability of healthcare providers to deliver essential medical care to their patients is of utmost importance in ensuring that individuals can have access to crucial care without apprehension of being subject to biased or persecution.

Moreover, reproductive healthcare services offered at public universities play a pivotal role in ensuring that young people have access to the care they need to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. Reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancies among students, in turn, can help reduce the dropout rate, increasing the likelihood of academic success and improving overall health outcomes.

Additionally, the absence of healthcare facilities, including mental health services in underserved communities, is frequently associated with unstable housing access. Some individuals and families with low incomes can face barriers to accessing healthcare services, such as limited availability of providers in their area, financial constraints, or transportation issues. By providing medical care in a familiar and accessible environment, mobile health clinics can help improve health outcomes.

In conclusion, all possible steps must be taken to provide access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare. The ability of individuals to access gender-affirming care and reproductive health care can significantly impact their ability to maintain stable and healthy living conditions. Denying individuals access to care can lead to physical and mental health problems that can affect their ability to work, earn a living, and maintain stable housing.

Therefore, CAT strongly urges your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

The Community Alliance of Tenants