



March 20, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

The Honorable Rep. Rob Nosse, Chair

The Honorable Rep. Christine Goodwin, Vice Chair

The Honorable Rep. Travis Nelson, Vice Chair

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson, and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Alison Edelman, I am an OBGYN and serve as the Division Director of Complex Family Planning at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). I am here to testify in support of House Bill 2002.

At OHSU, we know abortion is essential health care. Every day, we see many of the most complex and complicated cases facing those seeking abortion care. Many of our patients come to us either because their health is in jeopardy or because their fetus has no chance of survival. Over the last year, as the impacts of the United States Supreme Court decision in Dobbs has played out in state after state, we are seeing more and more women coming to us in desperate need of this care from places where access has been denied – having had to face extreme barriers and delays to reach us. In many cases, we are prevented from receiving the normal referral information (“medical handovers” and records) to care for these patients and often have to repeat medical testing to ensure their safe care and to provide them with critical information needed for their future medical care and pregnancy planning.

We know from our own history and that of so many other countries around the world that when abortion is illegal, criminalized, or restricted, it does not stop, it just becomes unsafe for those who seek it out, places increased costs upon the patient, or causes increased utilization of already restrained health care resources especially as patients’ medical processes can now be even more complex. New legislation across the country seeking to eliminate access to

abortion and intimidate and criminalize both those who seek out care and those who provide it, ensure this unsafe reality for far too many.

While we are fortunate to live in a state that protects women's fundamental right to access the full continuum of reproductive health care, the rush to punish clinicians providing essential evidence-based health care, no matter where we live or provide that care, is a reality we face. For my colleagues at OHSU who provide gender affirming care, I know the reality is the same.

The legislation in front of you is fundamentally about protecting individual freedom to make informed health care decisions with a health care provider. No one should have to fear persecution or prosecution for doing what is best for their health or for fulfilling their duties as a health care professional.

I want to thank House Speaker Dan Rayfield, Senate President Rob Wagner, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and the chief sponsors of this legislation, Rep. Andrea Valderrama, Rep. Travis Nelson, Sen. Kate Lieber and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner for their work in bringing this legislation forward. I urge your support.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Edelman', written in a cursive style.

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