

Submitter: Brittany Marshall

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I am a veteran of 10 years in the US Navy. Upon leaving the service in May of 2021, largely because I am a transwoman who was forced to stay in the closet by the cultural pressures inherent in the military, I moved to Oregon due to its track record of being a progressive and empathetic state. I did not have private insurance at the time, but I was able to access my initial gender affirming care via Planned Parenthood. I now work as a Project Manager for an engineering firm here in Portland, I pay my taxes and generally contribute in a positive manner to society and the local and state communities.

Gender affirming care and reproductive freedoms go hand in hand. Attacking one attacks the other. It was no mistake that I knew I could reach out to Planned Parenthood for my care. These attacks in other states against transgender access to health and abortion are happening simultaneously for a reason.

Oregon must lead the fight in protecting the rights of its citizens. I graduated from Oregon State University in 2016, and had fallen in love with this state during my time in Corvallis. I had planned on coming back once my service was concluded, and I did, largely because this state believes in treating its people....all of its people...with dignity and respect.

Oregon has been a sanctuary for me and others who go through the difficult journey of transitioning, and it has been a bastion of freedom in this post-Roe era. It is time to codify this into law, to expand these protections and ensure they will be here for future generations to come.

This legislative body must act now. Never has there been a greater threat to these human rights as there is now, all as part of a power play by shoring up support over culture wars. Oregon must stand with dignity at this time, ensuring that its people are respected with their rights protected.