

Submitter: Paul Whiting

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

In Support of Reproductive Health & Access to Care (HB 2002)

In Oregon, we believe that everyone should have the freedom to make their own health care decisions and access the care they need to survive and thrive. For years, our state has led the nation in protecting and expanding access to the full spectrum of sexual, reproductive, and gender affirming care. Despite our progress, significant barriers to the full spectrum of care still exist in our state for many communities including: low-income Oregonians, those living outside of the I-5 corridor, women, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, and people with disabilities.

With the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, we lost legal protections for abortion. Since then, states are moving aggressively to ban abortion and criminalize providers. And the same extremists who want to ban abortion and criminalize care are also waging attacks on LGBTQ2SIA+ people. More than 300 bills attacking trans and queer rights have been introduced, and already several bills banning and restricting transgender health care have passed this year alone.

As states across the nation ramp up assaults on our lives and freedom, we know we must keep showing up and organizing to protect our rights.

With HB 2002, Oregon can be a leader — by protecting and expanding access to reproductive and transgender health care we can...

1. Protect providers and health centers' ability to deliver care to all patients who seek gender-affirming and reproductive health care in Oregon.
2. Expand access to gender-affirming, reproductive, and sexual health care for rural Oregonians, low-income folks, students, and all those in our community who experience barriers to care.
3. Ensure fundamental rights to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, so that no one can ever be criminalized for their reproductive health decisions or pregnancy outcomes.

Together, we're creating a future where every person belongs, has the power to determine their own future, and has access to the care they need.