

Submitter: Janet Lorenzen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

March 20, 2023

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

FROM: Professor Janet Lorenzen

RE: Support for HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

I am Professor Janet Lorenzen. I live in Salem and work at Willamette University, serving on the Trans Advocacy Committee there. I support HB 2002 because access to gender-affirming healthcare is a joyful experience for trans students.

There are many trans and non-binary students at Willamette University who must go out into the community for trans-affirming healthcare which we are not able to provide on campus. Trans students have complained to me about pharmacies having problems with insurance companies which caused delays in students getting their prescriptions.

Setting rules for insurance companies to ensure gender-affirming health coverage is an important up-stream solution to the problem of access. HB 2002 will: prohibit limiting gender-affirming care, hold insurance companies accountable for covering gender-affirming care, expand insurance coverage to additional services that support transition, and it would protect care providers.

I leave you with a quote from one of my favorite gender scholars:

“It is always brave to insist on undergoing transformations that feel necessary and right even when there are so many obstructions to doing so, including people and institutions who seek to pathologize or criminalize such important acts of self-definition. I know that for some it feels less brave than necessary, but we all have to defend those necessities that allow us to live and breathe in the way that feels right to us. Surgical intervention can be precisely what a trans person needs—it is also not always what a trans person needs. Either way, one should be free to determine the course of one’s gendered life.” -Judith Butler

Thank you,

Professor Janet Lorenzen