



**E. WERNER RESCHKE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 55

March 19, 2023

To: Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin, Nelson and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare.

Re: Opposition to HB 2002

Thank you for reading my brief testimony. I am compelled as a legislator to speak boldly on behalf of those who are being silenced or no longer have a voice.

Therefore, I humbly submit to you three difficult truths:

- Abortion is ending the life of an innocent human being. With every successful abortion, someone dies.
- Transgender Theory is a delusion. It is not a real ontological category as it is not a legitimate category of being. It demands that we abandon science regarding fundamental physical reality for an ideology's sake.
- HB 2002 takes away parental guardianship, giving primary authority for the welfare and safety of children to the state and medical profession.

These statements do not mean I hate anyone who has undergone an abortion procedure, or anyone who claims to be transgender. I do care very much about these individuals — these are real people, often children or teenagers, with real life struggles. However, in my opinion, HB 2002, which expands abortion and promotes transgender care, will destroy our culture by destroying the lives of our children.

In order to find the right public policy to serve the most public good, the truth must first be understood — What is really happening must be defined. That takes me back to my three truth statements listed above. As long as the state of Oregon's position on abortion and transgenderism remains untrue, no solution, nor any amount of money will truly help the people these policies are intended to help — they may provide temporary relief, they may create the mistaken impression of short term euphoria, but in the end, they will not solve the problem. If  $2+2=5$  is accepted and used to build bridges, buildings and highways, beware of the chaos that will soon follow. In the end, objective reality is true.

I will not change my position on abortion — Ending the life of a fetus, a human being, with unique human DNA, for most of the reasons typically given, cannot be justified.

Furthermore, there is no solid, objective science that separates gender from sex — Subjective feelings inside a person do not negate science or the objective world around us. Reality cannot be defined entirely on terms of emotions and feelings in order to understand what is real and what is not. Objective reality defines the limits of our physical bodies no matter how many injections or surgeries.

Finally, HB 2002 relegates parental guardianship concerning children to the bottom of importance. A parent is explicitly prohibited from knowing about medical “procedures” or “treatments” unless the child provides written consent. This is completely backwards and wrong. Children in traumatic, emotional states need consistent love, care and compassion from their parents, not clinical advice from someone who will not be there to pick up the pieces of broken reality.

I’m saddened to say, in the end, HB 2002 will cause more pain and more suffering to Oregonians who are effected by these policies. As a result, more money will be required by taxpayers to fix the problems created by HB 2002. Why? Because HB 2002 does not acknowledge what is true.

HB 2002 does not pursue what is good, true and beautiful; it does the exact opposite. This bill will harm people and destroy lives. I urge you not to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Werner Reschke', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

**E. WERNER RESCHKE**  
State Representative, HD 55  
*The Crater Lake District*