

Submitter: NJ Mac

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I am writing in SUPPORT of this bill.

Yes, as a woman who became an adult at the time Roe v Wade was passed, I was fortunate to have access to birth control and abortion services that helped me choose when to have children. Please strengthen this right in Oregon.

As a person who has friends and patients that are intersex, trans, and questioning - please make these choices available to teens and adults. I know that teens often question their sexuality, bodies, and gender choices. I don't want them to be able to get surgery or life-altering changes until they are adults with fully developed adult brains. But they should be able to access puberty blockers that put that development on hold until they are certain what works for them.

And yes, in a perfect world, parents can be the ones to guide them with love and support. But many young people are not safe enough to reveal themselves to their families. Growing up, my youngest brother was physically beaten by our dad and was not safe enough to reveal he was gay. I'm surprised that he made it to adulthood and finally was able to get acceptance and support from others. Please support and strengthen the rights of ALL of us in Oregon.