

Submitter: Abigail Pauls

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

March 20, 2023

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Committee

Gender affirming care is health care and all health care needs to be accessible and affordable.

With the current rise of legislation across the country to limit and criminalize women's health care and gender affirming care I support the passage of this bill. As members of this committee you have the opportunity to advance lifesaving legislation that will not only effect those individuals in need but will also bring comfort to the family and friends of those individuals.

Just like any other health condition, women's health care and gender affirming care are based in medical science that responds to real human need. Medical insurance plans should not be able to disregard treatment that is medically needed.

Speaking from my own personal experience as a trans woman who struggled to obtain insurance coverage for crucial health care in Oregon, this bill is badly needed. The added physical, emotional, and financial costs of fighting to obtain necessary gender affirming care is incredibly stifling and damaging.

Protecting access to reproductive health care and gender affirming care fundamentally means protecting life. I implore you to pass HB 2002 into law.

Respectfully Submitted,

Abigail Pauls