

Submitter: Jessica Mendies

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

My name is Jessica Mendies and I am a Oregon Associate counselor who works with teens. I am deeply opposed to this bill passing as a result of working with teens who are very much in transition as far as their identity and understanding of the Self. It is an important developmental time in life of exploration and individuation that does not finish or come full circle as far as understanding and peace of who one is until much later on in the early 20s. No child or adolescent has the developmental capacity and neurobiological readiness to make a life long decision that will impact their ability to procreate, shift in their identity of self later on, or be able to depend on the wisdom of the adults in their lives.