

Submitter: Joseph Kranitz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2002. As a resident of Oregon and a supporter of equitable healthcare, I believe that everyone deserves access to high-quality healthcare, including sexual, reproductive, and gender-affirming care, regardless of their income, gender identity, race, or ability to pay.

Oregon has been a leader in protecting and expanding access to reproductive healthcare, including the codification of abortion rights into state law, the coverage of gender-affirming care under the Oregon Health Plan, and the passage of the Reproductive Health Equity Act. However, significant barriers to care still exist for many communities, particularly low-income individuals, LGBTQ2SIA+ people, and people of color.

The overturn of Roe v. Wade has only increased the urgency to expand access to care in Oregon. As you know, 3/4 of Oregon counties do not have an abortion provider, and nearly 3/4 of transgender Oregonians do not live near a provider who has openings within a month to receive services. These disparities are unacceptable, and they must be addressed.

I commend Speaker Dan Rayfield, Senate President Rob Wagner, and Attorney General Rosenblum for forming the Reproductive Health and Access to Care work group in 2022. The work group's priorities to protect providers and health care centers, expand access to care, and ensure fundamental rights are crucial steps towards a more just and equitable healthcare system in Oregon.

I urge you to support HB 2002 and to prioritize the health and well-being of all Oregonians, especially those who have historically faced barriers to care. By passing this legislation, Oregon can continue to be a leader in protecting and expanding access to reproductive healthcare.

Thank you for your consideration.