

Submitter: AE Hillenburg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

March 20, 2023

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

FROM: AE Hillenburg

RE: Support for HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

I am AE Hillenburg, pronounced "eh." I live in Salem and attend Willamette University. As a trans and non-binary person who advocates for people seeking gender-affirming medical care, I support HB 2002.

Everyone, regardless of identity, deserves access to safe, consistent, and affordable healthcare. Abortion is healthcare. Medical transition is healthcare. Denial of healthcare on the basis of identity, income level, or appearance is simply irreconcilable. Personally, I am not seeking medical transition, but I recognize the pains and joys in finding what provides everyone with fair gender euphoria, described as the psychological state of comfort and bliss when your gender expression (external) and gender identity (internal) align. Everyone, even cisgendered people, experiences ranges of gender dysphoria or euphoria. Perhaps you feel beautiful flashing long nails when speaking, or perhaps your beard makes you feel some type of way that is simply indescribable. People could be content, happy, or even exuberant, if we shared understandings of identity on the basis of individuality rather than pre existing expectations of gendered roles.

HB 2002 will: prohibit limiting gender-affirming care, hold insurance companies accountable for covering gender-affirming care, expand insurance coverage to additional services that support transition, and it would protect care providers.

I urge you to pass HB 2002 in the 2023 legislative session to ensure the equitable health and safety of all Oregonians.

Thank you,

AE Hillenburg
Willamette University