

Date: March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Lisa Farlin, Community Member, Ally

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Lisa Farlin. I live in Grants Pass and am writing as a community member and ally to the LGBTQ+ community. I am writing to express **support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care**, which will help create a future in which everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

Please protect our healthcare providers, expand access to health care for all and ensure the fundamental rights for every Oregonian to receive the health care they need.

With the overturn of Roe v. Wade, we've seen states across the nation take steps to ban and restrict access to gender-affirming care, denying transgender and gender-expansive people life-saving medical care. Though we have good protections in place, that work is not done, and reproductive and gender affirming care is not equally available across our state—as LGBTQ+ and especially transgender people in Southern Oregon know well. 3/4 of Oregon counties do not have an abortion provider. Nearly 3/4 of transgender Oregonians do not live near a provider who has openings within a month to receive services. This can translate to years-long waitlists for life-saving gender affirming care, the likes of which are deeply felt in Southern Oregon. These disparities in access create harm and isolation within our communities, especially for queer and trans youth.

Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right.

As a retired school psychologist I have been witness to the importance of providing our trans youth the gender affirming care they need. And, sadly, I have been witness to what happens when our LGBTQ+ youth don't receive the support they need. Based on the data collected by the Alliance to Prevent Suicide, 43% of trans students in Oregon have seriously contemplated suicide.

What if it was your child? Wouldn't you want them to have access to the care they needed?

This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Farlin