

Submitter: Janet Lorenzen  
On Behalf Of: Kendall Morrow  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2002

March 20, 2023

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

FROM: Kendall Morrow

RE: Support for HB 2002

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

I am Kendall Morrow. I live in Salem and attend Willamette University. I'm writing in support of HB 2002 because access to gender-affirming healthcare is essential for a joyful experience for trans students when allowed access to fundamental health care.

Creating access to gender-affirming health care will greatly decrease the rates of trans suicide.

On top of that, Health care alone should cover both abortion and gender-affirming care. So far, Oregon has fairly good health care but it can still be improved. With this bill, we can achieve that goal of strengthening Oregon's health care system.

To not pass this bill, you're announcing your agreement with other states that women do not have control over her own body. By not passing this bill, you're not banning abortions, you're banning safe abortions. However, if you pass this bill and other similar bills, you are repeating the same thing people in the streets have been chanting post and pre Roe v. Wade: "Abortion care is health care!" And "My body, my choice!"

The need for an increased allowance of access to reproductive health and gender-affirming medical care has never been more needed. More and more states have joined the path of introducing and passing extremely restrictive anti-trans bills as well as anti-abortion bills that greatly impact women of reproductive age, which for Oregon, is 961,000 women from the ages of 15-46.

Multiple trans and non-binary students at Willamette University struggle to acquire affordable, easy access healthcare on campus and are forced to seek care outside the community for trans-affirming healthcare. Trans students have complained about pharmacies having problems with insurance companies which caused delays in students getting their prescriptions.

Setting rules for insurance companies to ensure gender-affirming health coverage is

an important up-stream solution to the problem of access. 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.

In short, by passing this bill, you are saving both trans lives and women's lives. Oregonian lives are in your hand, be the Oregon that everyone thinks we are. Let others know that Oregon will remain a protective state to anyone no matter your race, sexuality, gender, financial status, ability and religious background.

Let's keep Oregon safe.

Thank you,  
Kendall Morrow