

Submitter: Joanna Woods

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of the citizens of Oregon.

In reading 2002 I noticed some positive features. Including the support of LGBTQ+ individuals.

However, I have am in opposition to 2002.

1. My tax dollars could be allocated by the Legislative assembly to abortion procedures at my local college.

o As I look at my own little baby, I'm struck by it's inability to do anything without help. I still wonder when we say a fetus is a real person. I want to support new life inside college students. Not end it. Discretion is needed, not a covering up of the consequences.

o There is importance in every life. It's not uncommon for me to hear a man outside my window screaming and yelling at night. There are homeless camps nearby and trash covering my street. Sometimes young adults on meth walk past me and my 3 year old. But these lives all mean something. They may not be contributing to my taxes or well being, but they are meaningful nonetheless, and I don't know what important work they are going to go on to do someday. I feel the same about the lives in the womb. The unknown is to be protected, not killed.

o I am friends with many college students. They are sometimes busy and stressed. I could easily see why abortion might be seen as an easy way out of a decision made to have sex with a person. However, this decision is a big decision. And I rarely see options available on campuses for other alternatives. There is lack of information at my local college about the negative impact of having an abortion. There is also little to no information on my local college campus advertised about the negative impacts of abortion. (In addition, when it comes to gender transition, I rarely hear of support for staying in the gender a person is.)

2. When I was a teenager, I wanted my parents to know about what was happening to me in a clinic. I trusted them, and felt encouraged that they could assist and support me. Although many minors do not have this support, I think overall we are developing a cycle of distrust.

3. Insurance will be providing the funds. Someday my children will be on my insurance and my husband's. What if we don't want them to have a procedure. Our insurance, which we receive through work, will still be what is providing them what we deem concerning. Why should we divide the family at this age in a time in which life is chaos already?

4. What if a minor wants to change their decision later? It's likely they can't. We

don't live in a society in which you become an adult at the age of 15, in which you marry, have a job, and care for a family. Right now, many young adults live at home and don't even have a job.

5. The amount of work it takes to put these provisions in place. This is going to take a great deal of time and money to implement. What if we spent this time and money supporting other types of mental health issues? Or giving positive alternatives to youth for gender affirming activities.

6. Although abortion clinics are targeted, so are pro-life centers. Will they too be protected under these laws?

7. Will the fear of retribution cause health care providers, or other important support workers, not to speak up about their concerns when conversing with a 15 year old about their desire for abortion or sex change due to this law?

These are some of my concerns,

Thank you.