

Date: March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Kat Abrams

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Kat Abrams and 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.

The *Dobbs* decision worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. The race to criminalize access to health care will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.

HB 2002 centers those who face the most barriers to accessing care in policy-making and resourcing. The policy recommendations from Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group were developed in lockstep with impacted communities, providers, and organizations working on the ground to meet this moment. These recommendations include but are not limited to: protecting providers and health centers, expanding access to care for underserved communities, and ensuring fundamental human rights.

Although Oregon is a proud national leader in the fight for reproductive rights and access, many Oregonians still face major barriers to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care: $\frac{3}{4}$ of Oregon counties do not have an abortion provider and 30% of all Oregon hospital beds are in hospitals that may claim non medical exemptions to providing reproductive health services. HB 2002 addresses the key barriers and closes major gaps in access to lifesaving health care.

Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right. It is critical that Oregon protects life-saving medical care for all, without fear of criminalization, discrimination, or harm.

Please vote yes on HB 2002. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kat Abrams