

Date: March 20th, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Mackenzie Roberts, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, Leadership and Advocacy Team

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Mackenzie Roberts, I am a product of rural Oregon, I have a Master of Science in Reproductive Science and Medicine, 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 every person in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own body and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender-affirming health care.

In order to ensure Oregonians maintain access to reproductive health care, we must ensure that our health care providers and the places they interact with patients are protected. In Oregon, we are fortunate to have OHSU's OB/GYN residency program and the highly specialized family planning fellowship. We must maintain that the providers we train here are able to stay here and provide exceptional care in our state. This includes protecting providers' ability to provide care to all Oregonians who seek gender-affirming care and reproductive health care in Oregon, preventing interference with health care centers and protecting providers from harassment and abuse, and ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of providers are protected.

Coinciding with this protection of providers and healthcare centers, we must ensure that all areas of our state can receive equal access to care through the expansion of the services we are able to provide patients.

This legislative package hits home in many ways - I am a product of rural Oregon and have been able to accomplish my academic and career goals because of my ability to make decisions about family planning. I want to ensure that future generations of people in rural Oregon are able to have the same opportunities I was afforded when I was given autonomy over my own healthcare. As a scientist, I also want to ensure that Oregonians will one day be able to access the care we are trying to deliver once our research goals of expanding the arsenal of contraceptive care come to fruition. In order to see our goals of increased access to care realized, we need to not only invest in our providers and our healthcare centers, but have strong legislation in place to allow for potential new technologies to benefit all Oregonians.

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

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Roberts