

March 20, 2023

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

I wish to express strong support of HB 2002 regarding reproductive health care and gender affirming treatment.

I was on the early edge of having no choice but abstinence or an illegal abortion assuming I could find a place to have one and be able to afford it. The birth control pill came into being! And I was fortunate in having informed health care from an early age. Too many individuals are not so fortunate and the passing of Roe vs Wade gave individuals a safe and affordable option to end a pregnancy which was not wanted, the result of rape, incest, ignorance and so forth.

It is my belief that having responsible nurturing parents who will love and provide the best environment in which to raise a child is far more important than forcing pregnancies that may result in abusive environments for both the child and too often the mother. Let's pass HB 2002 in the interest of providing necessary reproductive care for ALL versus having the US lose the distinction of having the worst record of any developed country in the world for both mother and baby survival rates. Let's be part of the solution, not add to the problem.

Sincerely,

Katherine Goodwin

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