

Submitter: JESSICA FLYNN

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

My name is Jessica Flynn. I am a board certified Family Medicine physician at OHSU. I have been in practice for 23 years. In addition to providing continuity primary care, I am the medical director for the OHSU Family Medicine Inpatient services. I am also actively engaged with teaching medical students and Family Medicine resident physicians. I am writing to 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.

I care deeply about this issue for many reasons. First and foremost health care is a basic human right. Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right. The Dobbs decision worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. This decision has potentially far reaching, multi generational health-harming consequences.

It is certain that ongoing criminalization of access to health care will not only further deepen health inequities, create generational adverse health consequences but also more immediately will actually compromise basic access to multiple other types of health care, especially to rural and critical access regions.

As an example, within the last few days, it has been noted in the national news (see link below) that a critical access hospital in Idaho is shutting its Labor and Delivery unit due to the criminalization of basic sexual and reproductive rights in that state, and the subsequent departure of licensed obstetrical providers. Even routine obstetrical care will now be compromised, causing higher risk to families who now have to travel further for care and risk unaccompanied births. As licensed obstetrical providers depart, access to routine prenatal care will become compromised, and the risks of inadequate prenatal care and preterm birth will rise. This is just a small additional example of how the un-intended consequences of criminalizing basic health care will adversely impact our citizens.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/idaho-hospital-stops-labor-and-delivery-services-citing-political-climate/ar-AA18NNeh>

Another possibly un-recognized concern is regarding the educational climate. We heavily depend on recruiting thoughtful, intelligent students to join the health care workforce in Oregon. In states where basic access to reproductive and sexual health have been criminalized, learners in those states (students and medical residents) have either left their programs or have had to transfer to states where these rights

have been upheld. The loss of those students and early career physicians will have a lasting negative impact on those states. We have an opportunity to prevent such a workforce depletion in Oregon by passing HB2002.

Lastly I will mention that the most important aspect of this bill for me, is truly with providing access to all care for all patients. Criminalization of basic health care services is not patient nor citizen centered. The harm that will befall our communities will be felt for many generations. I strongly support passing HB2002.