

Submitter: Abigail Demchak

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 21, 2023 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Abigail Demchak, LCSW at Samaritan Health Services

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Abigail Demchak and as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 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.

Time and again, Oregonians have affirmed their support for making abortion safe and accessible to all. This state has long valued the right to choose when and whether to start a family and bodily autonomy.

Everyone deserves access to lifesaving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

In my six years working in mental and behavioral health settings, I have seen more patients than I can count who are negatively impacted by hateful and targeted things going on in their own country, state, city, and even their own neighborhood. Women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community are target much more often than other demographics, and now more than ever, they, we, need your protection.

Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right, and for anyone to try to dictate otherwise based on their own biased morals, values, and opinions has no place in seats of power.

You have a chance to make a difference, save lives, and help people live a happier and more secure life.

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

Sincerely,
Abigail Demchak, LCSW