

Submitter: Dana Buhl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

In Support of HB 2002

on behalf of Faith Leaders of Oregon for Reproductive Justice

My name is Dana Buhl, I use she/her pronouns, and I serve First Unitarian Church of Portland as the Director of Social Justice. I'm here today representing Faith Leaders of Oregon for Reproductive Justice. We are clergy and faith leaders from many traditions, including Unitarian Universalist, Methodist, Jewish, Presbyterian, and Lutheran faith communities and we support HB 2002.

Though we hold diverse religious beliefs, we speak with one voice proclaiming that every body, every person, is sacred, has inherent worth and dignity, and should be respected and protected to make medical decisions for themselves that are life-affirming. The Spirit of Love calls us to support laws that protect access to gender affirming healthcare and the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortion, as matters of human rights and of religious freedom.

Our faith traditions compel us to work for reproductive justice. We embrace the comprehensive vision as defined by SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, that each person has the right to make decisions for their own body, the right to have or to not have children, and the right to raise families in safe and sustainable communities.

We have a shared faithful commitment to protect the vulnerable and the oppressed. The legacy of oppression in the US, and in this state, means that certain Oregonians – specifically Indigenous, Black, and Communities of Color, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities and immigrants – face greater barriers to accessing healthcare services. HB2002 ensures the fundamental protections of and access to the full spectrum of reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare and, importantly, protects the healthcare providers who serve these communities.

We urge you to pass HB2002. As faith leaders, we support abortion care, full spectrum reproductive healthcare and gender affirming care not despite our religious beliefs, but because of them.

Thank you.