



March 20, 2023

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare
FROM: Our Children's Oregon
RE: Support for HB 2002

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

My name is Greer Klepacki, and I am the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator with Our Children Oregon. Our Children Oregon's (OCO) mission is advancing equitable policymaking and whole-child advocacy statewide to ensure our children and youth have what they need, regardless of their race or where they live, to thrive by activating meaningful change for children and families. We collect, analyze, and elevate data and research that, alongside lived experience, drives conversations in support of Oregon's future.

I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care. HB 2002 will help create a future in which everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care. According to Oregon KIDS Count Data, we know that 48% of youth that identify as gender-diverse have unmet emotional and mental health needs.¹

I was one of those kids, and have grown up to write today as a proud transgender person of color. Gender-affirming care saved my life. I am thankful and honored to be able to use my voice for my community, for both those that we've lost and may unfortunately continue to lose in the face of rising anti-transgender and anti-reproductive health care legislation across the country if it is not stopped. I am also a proud Oregonian, and know we can do better than the 300+ bills attacking LGBTQ rights that have been introduced across the country. Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. No one should be denied gender affirming care or access to reproductive care.

As a person who has had the privilege to access both reproductive and gender affirming care in Oregon, I know that there are far too many people in my community that have been denied this opportunity. We can do better for *all* Oregonians, regardless of their identity. We have that unique opportunity to do better with HB 2002.

¹ <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/oregon-kids-count/>

We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state, especially for our transgender youth. They deserve to thrive in every aspect of their life. We urge your support for HB 2002.

From the Our Children Oregon Team,

Greer Klepacki, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

Jenifer Wagley, Executive Director

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