

Submitter: Nick Pham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and Committee. Thank you for your time today.

My name is Nick Pham, my pronouns are they/ them. I am a transgender non-binary Oregonian. Born and raised. I am a legal assistant in Portland. I am so proud to be from this state, and in the current political climate, so relieved as well.

I am here in support of HB 2002 Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill.

NOBODY should be denied medically necessary and approved health care. Not in 2023. And most importantly to today's conversation, not in Oregon. And your insurance plan, income level, or zip code should not determine access to such care. Bodily autonomy is a basic human right and our laws should not limit this to a privilege for some instead of all.

As our lawmakers I need you to ensure our rights are safe and the healthcare providers and teams providing our services are safe to continue doing their jobs.

Prior to transitioning, my dysphoria was so severe I struggled to maintain employment, relationships, and my mental health, due to the incongruence between my gender and my outward presentation.

Last year I was lucky enough to receive gender affirming top surgery and this year am privileged enough to have begun hormone replacement therapy. This gender affirming health care saved my life.

After surgery for the first time since I was a teenager I lived 365 consecutive days without a single suicidal thought.

Five years ago this month I was an inpatient in a mental health facility for the last time. Where once I was a frequent flyer for help lines and emergency rooms, now I am a steady, healthy, actively involved member of my community. I am a volunteer coach for a girls running team and I missed practice tonight because I know that passing HB 2002 will protect their lives, their rights, and their futures.

The benefits I have received from gender affirming care were only available to me because the services I needed for safety and alleviating dysphoria, were covered by my insurance, unlike the facial feminization surgeries or hair electrolysis needs of my

trans siblings. These forms of gender affirming care serve the same medically necessary need that my top surgery and hormones did - to allow me to exist safely in our society, happier and healthier.

You don't have to agree with my decisions or even understand them, to respect my identify as a fellow Oregonian and allow me the right to make my own decisions about my body in conversation with my medical providers.

I am so grateful and proud to be an Oregonian. I am asking you today to promise to protect us. All of us. I urge you to keep Oregon a safe place to live and pass HB 2002.