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To Oregon State Legislators:

I am writing in strong support of HB 2002. I am a reconstructive urologist, gender-affirming surgeon, co-founder and Surgical Director of the Oregon Health & Science University Transgender Health Program.

Gender-affirming care saves lives. Unfortunately, I've known several patients who have died as a result of violence because of their gender identity, and I've had patients who committed suicide while waiting for gender-affirming care.

Gender-affirming therapy is not experimental. There is strong existing and growing evidence that gender-affirming therapy (whether supportive behavioral health care, medical care such as affirming hormonal therapy, or gender-affirming surgery) helps improve quality of life.

We have long known that transgender and gender-diverse people have high rates of suicidality and experience discrimination in life generally but in health care in particular, both historically and currently. Oregon has been a national leader in assuring access to gender-affirming care, but HB 2002 is necessary to solidify and further this leadership.

All gender-affirming care is critically important. Today I also write in especially strong support in particular of extending insurance coverage for facial gender-affirming care (such as hair removal and surgery) as medically-necessary and NOT cosmetic. This area in particular is critically important to diminish the discrimination, harassment, and violence experienced by transgender and gender-diverse people since our faces are literally how people first see us.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Dugi III MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Dugi III MD FACS  
Associate Professor, Department of Urology, Oregon Health & Science University  
Surgical Director, Transgender Health Program