



# Reproductive and Gender-Affirming Care

03/20/2023

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Travis, and members of the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee,

My name is Nick Keough, and I am the Legislative Director of the Oregon Student Association. **I am writing today to ask for your support on HB 2002, which 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.**

Oregon Student Association (OSA) advocates for the collective interests of students in postsecondary institutions in Oregon. This includes the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of students.

Within the Oregon Student Association, the Oregon Student Equal Rights Alliance (OSERA), is a coalition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer students that was created by students in 2001. OSERA is dedicated to empowering students and achieving equal access to education for LGBTQ+ students in Oregon. OSERA and other student groups connected with OSA have taken interest in HB 2002.

With the overturn of Roe v. Wade, we've seen states across the nation take steps to ban and restrict access to reproductive healthcare and abortion. Simultaneously, we have seen attacks on gender-affirming care that provide transgender and gender-expansive people life-saving medical care. This is a coordinated attack centered around restricting bodily autonomy. People in Oregon have already felt the impacts of the rapidly changing healthcare landscape, with the most significant burden falling on those who've struggled to access care long before the Supreme Court decision was handed down.

While Oregon remains as one of the most protected states for abortion access, this is not true for college and university campuses that are publicly funded. Many of Oregon's colleges and universities hardly supply any information on abortion. Many students are often left to google search for abortion care where they are directed to fake clinics nearby campus – this is extremely dangerous. Further, access to medication abortion, such as misoprostol and mifepristone, on college and university campuses in Oregon is immensely limited. HB 2002 would work to address these issues.

**It is for these reasons that our student leaders feel that expanding access to reproductive and gender-affirming care is critical for students.** Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender-affirming care. Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right. **We must take bold action now. We urge you to support HB 2002.**

Thank you,

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**OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

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