

Submitter: Dana Parker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

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

My name is Dana Parker (they/them) and I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, 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.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

The Dobbs decision worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. The race to criminalize access to health care will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.

This bill impacts my life and community by showing a commitment to bodily autonomy and wellbeing. As a Queer and Non-binary Mississippi native, I left my home state 17 years ago and moved to Oregon because I was not safe or protected under the law. I am witnessing more individuals and families leaving their home state in fear because of bills attacking LGBTQ+ people. Please show them and Oregonians that this State is a safer place to live and thrive. This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dana Parker (they/them)

3rd Congressional district of Oregon resident & voter