



Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare,

For the record, my name is Erica Bailey. I am a registered nurse and a Commissioner on the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA).

It is with gratitude that I submit this testimony on behalf of three of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions (OACs) – the Oregon Commission for Women, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs (OCBA), and the Oregon Commission for Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs– to urge the Committee to support the passage of HB 2002, which will modify current provisions to ensure reproductive health rights for all Oregonians.

Each Commission works for the implementation and establishment of social, political, economic, and legal equity for their constituent populations in the state of Oregon. Each Commission has several statutory duties, all of which revolve around advocacy and equity.

Ensuring access to reproductive health care in Oregon is essential, especially for communities of color. These communities continue to face significant health inequities, including higher rates of birther mortality, unintended pregnancies, infant mortality, and limited access to reproductive health care. Safeguarding access to care can help address these inequities and improve health outcomes for these communities.

Access to reproductive health care is essential for ensuring reproductive autonomy and freedom for individuals. This includes access to contraception, abortion services, and comprehensive sexual health education, all provided for in HB 2002. Without access to these services, individuals cannot make informed decisions about their own bodies and reproductive health.

Access to reproductive health care can also benefit communities of color economically. For example, unintended pregnancies can lead to financial strain and limit education and career advancement opportunities. By ensuring access to reproductive health care, individuals can better plan their families and future.

Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

Chair:

Jessica Price, Esq.

Vice-Chair:

Dr. Silky Booker (H.C.)

Commissioners:

Djimet Dogo
Benjamin Duncan
Liz Foucher-Branch
Erica Bailey

Legislative Members:

Senator James I. Manning
Representative Travis Nelson

Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office Staff

Albert Lee, Executive Director
Iyesha Rosser, Policy & Research
Saba Saleem, Public Affairs
Ava Stevens, Executive Support
Gustavo Guerrero, Legislative Lead



<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/>

503.302.9725

oaco.mail@oregon.gov

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217

And finally, it is essential to acknowledge the historical injustices that have contributed to limited access to reproductive health care for communities of color. These injustices include forced sterilization, medical experimentation, and discriminatory policies that have disproportionately affected these communities. Ensuring access to reproductive health care is one step toward addressing these injustices and promoting health equity for all Oregonians.

HB 2002 includes many provisions to protect the confidentiality and privacy of providers and their ability to provide care to patients seeking reproductive health or gender-affirming care in Oregon. It will also ensure clinicians can care for their patients without harassment or interference.

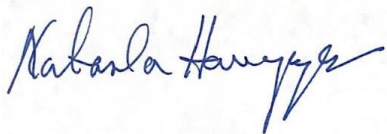
It is imperative that, as Oregonians, we continue to stand firm in favor of reproductive justice and bodily autonomy, and thus, we the undersigned Commissioners urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2002.

Sincerely,



Erica Bailey

Commissioner, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs



Natasha Haunsperger

Co-Chair, Oregon Commission for Women




Jackie Leung

Co-Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs



<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/> 

503.302.9725 

oaco.mail@oregon.gov 

PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 