

Submitter: Julia Brown

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

To our Representatives,

I am writing to provide my strong support for HB 2002. I am a lifelong Oregonian, a Master's level social worker, and a mental health consultant who works directly with youth in our community who are experiencing complex needs. I am also a queer gender fluid femme and many of the youth I work with also identify as transgender or nonbinary. The Representatives and people who have testified in opposition of HB 2002 continue to cite examples of youth who "detransitioned" and expressed regret for certain gender-affirming surgeries and other procedures, including abortions. While I have so much sympathy for the adults and youth who shared their negative experiences and fears related to HB 2002, this is exactly why we need to invest heavily in gender-affirming care, reproductive health care, and mental health care. I saw and heard the pain shared by those who oppose the bill, and I am angry on their behalf because I feel that their pain is being manipulated and weaponized by people with an anti-abortion and anti-trans agenda. If the adults and youth who experienced regret had been supported more holistically and been provided better resources, then they may not have had this negative experience. Much of the opposition testimony expresses fear for our youth and the need for parents to be in charge of their child's health care. The reality, which is strongly supported by credible scientific evidence and data, is that our youth need and deserve life-saving access to gender-affirming care and reproductive health care, and they should have autonomy and choice over their body. Without this, the impact will be devastating and will have a ripple effect. If HB 2002 does not pass, it will be very harmful to the most vulnerable and marginalized people in our community.

Thank you,

JB/Julia Brown

(she/her and they/them)