



April 25, 2023

Delivered orally

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and committee members:

Interim Chief Executive Officer
Emily Gilliland

My name is Emily Gilliland; I'm the Interim CEO of Cascade AIDS Project, or CAP. CAP is the oldest and largest HIV-services provider in Oregon. In addition, we run Prism Health, an LGBTQ+ health center that provides (among other services) gender-affirming care and reproductive healthcare.

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I am testifying on behalf of CAP and Prism to thank this Legislature's leadership for proposing Senate Joint Resolution 33, and to encourage this committee to pass it to the Senate floor. CAP was founded in 1985, at a time when HIV—and the government-sponsored homophobia that facilitated its spread—was ravaging Oregon's LGBTQ+ community. In the nearly 40 years since then, proposals to take rights *away* from LGBTQ+ Oregonians have repeatedly been put before voters, including 1988's Measure 8, which legalized discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in state agencies, and 2004's Measure 36, which banned same-gender marriage. It's only in recent years that Oregon has begun to codify the rights of its LGBTQ+ residents in statute, and our state constitution remains riddled with gaps in its guarantees of these rights. As a result, only a patchwork of state statutes and federal court decisions underlies the safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ Oregonians. With a new wave of political attacks on LGBTQ+ people—as well as women and other people who can become pregnant—sweeping the country, it is past time for Oregon voters to have the opportunity to express what we know is a widely held belief in our state: that every person has the right to make private decisions about their own health and lives.

Please, give Oregonians the opportunity to affirm our community's values by advancing SJR 33. Thank you for listening.