

Submitter: Kaitlin Gaffney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SJR33

To: Senate Committee on Rules
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: April 25, 2023
RE: In Support of SJR 33

Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, members of the committee:

My name is Kaitlin Gaffney, I am here on behalf of Family Forward Oregon to share our strong support of SJR 33. I am also here as a mother and a wife. My wife and I have been married for almost 14 years and live in NE Portland with our two boys.

Family Forward is committed to fighting for racial, gender, economic, and reproductive justice for Oregon mothers, caregivers, parents, and families. Economic security for mothers begins with women having the fundamental right to decide when to become a mother or when to grow their family. Sixty percent of women who have abortions are already mothers, and half of them have two or more children. One of the main reasons people report wanting to have an abortion is so they can be a better parent to the children they already have.

Choosing to have a child is a deeply personal decision and one that should be made without government interference. Yet since the fall of Roe v. Wade we have watched as across the country there have been countless attacks on our personal freedoms and fundamental rights.

Oregon voters overwhelmingly support our fundamental freedom to control our own bodies, lives, and futures. I'm proud of our state's willingness to stand up for our values and protect our freedoms. It's largely why my wife and I chose to make Oregon our home and start a family here; Oregon shares our values and offers us equal rights and protections under state law.

The relentless attacks we've seen from anti-LGBTQIA extremists are disturbing and frightening, but SJR 33 provides a sense of security for families like mine. It enshrines, in Oregon's constitution, some of our state's core values: that everyone should have the freedom to make our own healthcare decisions, the right to access the essential care we need, and the right to marry who we love. We've made great progress as a state, ensuring these shared values are protected by law. It's time to protect that forward progress by passing SJR 33. Thank you.

Kaitlin Gaffney
Policy and Campaigns Manager
Family Forward Oregon