



Tuesday, April 25th, 2023

Chair Lieber, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the Senate Rules Committee,

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon is writing to express our support for SJR 33 and urge the committee to pass it on to the full Senate. As the leading political voice for reproductive rights and freedom, PPAO has fought back countless attempts to roll back our freedoms and take away our ability to make decisions about our own bodies.

And with every anti-abortion ballot measure and every bill introduced to restrict access to care Oregonians have been crystal clear about their values: we believe every person should have the freedom to be who we are and have control over our bodies, our lives, and our futures and access the full spectrum to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

Thanks to decades of hard work and movement building, Oregon continues to be recognized as the strongest state in the nation when it comes to protecting the full spectrum of reproductive health care and expanding access for those formerly denied care because of their immigration status or gender identity. As a state, we've worked for decades to protect our rights to make deeply personal decisions about our lives without intrusive state interventions.

Over the years, six anti-abortion measures have been introduced to voters in Oregon and each time they were resoundingly defeated. We have codified the right to abortion and contraception in state statute, and while states across the U.S, have introduced 465 abortion bans or restrictions this year alone, we have rejected every anti-abortion bill introduced into the state legislature.

We know that Oregon voters want these protections. It's time to let their voices be heard at the ballot box so that our state constitution finally reflects the values and freedom we hold dear.

With the loss of Roe, extremists in Oregon and across our nation have been further emboldened and continue to push the unthinkable. And make no mistake: they will stop at nothing to continue dismantling the rights and freedoms we have fought so hard to protect.

As the far right moves aggressively to insert themselves into some of the most personal decisions we can make — like our ability to access essential healthcare and marry who we love — our long-held constitutional protections are under constant attack.

SJR 33 will ensure that the rights that Oregonians already value and believe in are affirmed and enshrined in our constitution by further defining the protections included in equal rights on account of sex to include protection from discrimination based on:

1. Pregnancy and related health decisions and outcomes
2. Gender identity and related health decisions
3. Sexual orientation, and
4. Gender

It's time to send a message to the rest of the country: our rights are not up for debate.

Over and over, folks in Oregon have fought tirelessly for our rights, and we've made our values loud and clear. We trust people to make decisions about their bodies and we believe that everyone in our state—no matter who we are, how much money we make or where we get insurance—deserves the right to access to the full spectrum of care, including contraception and abortion.

Let's pass SJR 33 and give voters the chance to settle this once and for all. Let's protect our rights to be the fullest version of who we are, to marry who we love, and determine our own futures.

Thank you,

Jennifer Williamson
Interim Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon