



April 25, 2023

To: House Committee on Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for SJR 33

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SJR 33 on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 16,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon.

Nurses strongly believe that every individual, regardless of their gender, deserve to receive the health care they need, when they need it. Our members are proud to provide care that honors personal choice and the freedom to make decisions about one's own body. Unfortunately, these fundamental rights to bodily autonomy are under attack across the United States. Oregonians can no longer count on the Supreme Court or the federal government to protect everyone's ability to make personal health care decisions, particularly decisions relating to contraception, abortion, and gender affirming care.

Referring SJR 33 to the ballot demonstrates our state's commitment to equality and autonomy. Furthermore, this referral, if passed and approved by the voters, will preserve the freedoms Oregonians currently enjoy, regardless of what decisions are made by the Supreme Court or the federal government. In doing so, every Oregonian will be empowered to live free of fear that they will face discrimination due to their personal health care choices or identity. ONA urges an aye vote. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin