

Submitter: Holly Hart  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SJR33

I oppose this resolution because of the inclusion of "gender identity" and "gender". These are very new social concepts and both terms have no clear and commonly accepted definitions, and no definitions are provided in this proposed constitutional amendment.

I think that the members of this committee should give priority to securing the rights of homosexual and bisexual Oregonians and the rights of pregnant women, and not tie these to the nebulous concepts of "gender identity" and "gender". I do not even understand why "gender identity" and "gender" are separately specified. Do the members of the committee understand what seems to be a redundancy, but which may be interpreted by courts as meaning that the legislature must have intended two distinct protected categories?

Constitutional provisions relying on "sex" and "sexual orientation" should not be force-teamed with proposed provisions relating to "gender identity" and "gender". Voters should have the opportunity to consider provisions relating to "sex" and "sexual orientation", both of which would likely be supported by a majority of Oregonians.

The rights of pregnant women and of homosexual and bisexual Oregonians should not be held hostage to public support for "gender identity" and "gender".

Right now there are people who subscribe to the idea that someone's "gender identity" can be "fluid", and change from day to day. There are men (adult human males) who have received "woman of the year" awards who "identify" as men some days of the week and who "identify" as women other days of the week. So when there is a cash prize for some activity for men, some males could "identify" as men, and when there is a different award for women, the same males could "identify" as women. Instead of being discriminated against, these males could unfairly change identities to maximize benefits to them.

I urge the members of the committee to vote no on this resolution.

I would support a resolution that only contained the provisions relating to pregnancy and sexual orientation, but that is not the resolution under consideration.