

Submitter: Rowen Lucas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SJR33

My name is Rowen Lucas. I'm a vocal member in the environmental and queer communities here in Central Oregon.

I'm in support of the Equal Rights for All Amendment.

I recently became a graduate of Bend High. In the 12 years I have been a student of the public system, I have met face to face with ignorance, anger, violence, and prejudice more than a few times by my peers, teachers, and town's community alike. There has been incredible progress in acceptance and actual understanding of queer people's needs. I wanted to hold space for that and give my gratitude. But there is still a long way to go to achieve acceptance and equity in needs.

One of those needs, **sarcastic tone** and possibly really out-of-the-box, is being recognized and treated as human beings with human needs. This need and fact is still in the workshop unfortunately. It's disappointing really.

Same Sex Marriage has been recognized legally since 2014 in Oregon. And yet I hear that, on legal documents, marriage is stated to involve a (cis) man and women, exclusively. Rather than having a more inclusive description of marriage, this is the choice that was made and never thought to be revisited until 9 years later? These legal definitions of marriage actually affect people's access to being recognized as married. And needs to be respected.

Equal rights protections are so vital to queer communities and need to be seen and respected for the importance that they hold.

I have had my fair share of bullies growing up. It wasn't ok then and it's not ok now. I will not tolerate my local governing powers to bully me and my peers as I grow into adulthood. Better yet, we need to take the discussion about the right to body autonomy seriously. Because that is a conversation that needs to have trans and non-binary individuals at the forefront. This is a conversation that needs to have all that identify as a woman at the forefront.

These legal conversations about equal rights and protections need to have diverse perspectives instead of an echo chamber.

Thank you for your time.