

DATE: April 27, 2023
TO: Senate Committee on Rules
FROM: Rebecca Nelson
RE: Support SJR 33

Members of the Committee,

My name is Rebecca Nelson, and I am writing to express **support for SJR 33**, and to urge the committee to pass it on to the full Senate.

I believe that access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right, and my fellow Oregonians have repeatedly affirmed their support for making abortion safe and accessible to all. Oregonians have consistently demonstrated overwhelming support for our fundamental freedom to control our own bodies, lives, and futures without government interference.

Across the country, and even here in Oregon, our fundamental freedoms are under attack, and we can no longer count on the Supreme Court to uphold our long-held constitutional protections. SJR 33 will enshrine our core values in the Oregon constitution and ensure that we can make deeply personal decisions free from government interference, including the right to abortion, contraception, and same-gender marriage.

Protecting these fundamental rights is deeply personal to me. As a queer/lesbian woman, I've experienced several barriers firsthand in accessing reproductive and sexual health care, even here in Oregon, particularly due to my income and sexual orientation. I've also seen members of my LGBTQ+ community face challenges in accessing needed gender affirming care, and I want to make sure that we're taking the necessary steps so Oregonians will no longer face these or other barriers when making choices that are best for their own health and lives.

It is also way past time that we remove the ban on same-gender marriage that was inserted into our constitution nearly two decades ago, and make it clear that people can marry who they love, and that every Oregonian, regardless of sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, is afforded the same protections to live a life free from government actions that discriminate. Again, as a queer/lesbian woman, this is incredibly personal to me—I should be afforded the same rights as every other Oregonian, and not face discrimination when it comes to housing, employment, public accommodation, state services *and* I should be able to marry the person that I love without fear of losing that right at any moment.

This is why I urge you to pass SJR 33. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nelson
Eugene, OR