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On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure: SJR33

At 42 years old I've lived a majority of my life pretending to be someone I'm not. Out of fear from humiliation I stayed silent in high school. Out of fear from discrimination I stayed silent in college. Out of fear from persecution I stayed silent most my adult life. But I will not stay silent any longer! Our rights are under attack across the country, and we need to give Oregon voters the chance to enshrine these rights in our Constitution. We can't let our fate depend on the election cycle. Millions of LGBTQ+ Americans live unprotected in states without Non-discrimination laws.

Oregon is my eleventh state that I've lived in, and it's the community I found here that truly allowed me to be myself. Spending a lifetime hiding, feeling guilty and ashamed of who I am, hoping that one day I could be "normal". This is a life millions of Americans share, and if they're lucky then one day they can live their life freely like me. Not everyone is so lucky. LGBTQ+ individuals face increased levels of violence, homelessness, inadequate healthcare, and suicide. This is especially true among youth, transgender individuals, individuals of color, and disabled individuals.

Oregon has a chance to be a beacon of hope for other states to follow. For other LGBTQ+ individuals to believe in. Everyone deserves to live a life free from discrimination, regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. SJR 33 needs to pass through the Oregon senate so that all Oregonians will have a chance to decide how our history and state's legacy will be told to future generations.