



**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon**

**To: House Committee on Health Care**

**From: Laura Terrill Patten, Executive Director Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon**

**Date: February 16, 2015**

**Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2678**

---

Chair Greenlick and the members of the House Healthcare Committee:

As reproductive health advocates, we have seen firsthand what happens when Oregonians experience increased access to birth control: The rate of unintended pregnancies goes down. In fact, The Guttmacher Institute reported just last month that Oregon's unintended pregnancy rate dropped by 17.4% between 2002 and 2010 – which marks the nation's largest drop across the decade.

To continue this momentum, House Bill 2678 will help remedy a gap in access to men's reproductive health care. Currently, patients at Planned Parenthood health centers are experiencing long delays in accessing vasectomy care because of a shortage of providers. In early 2014 Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette had 100 men on a waiting list which can take us six months to get through. This is far too long to wait for pregnancy prevention.

Vasectomy is one of the most effective permanent forms of birth control available to families. Compared with permanent birth control for women, vasectomy is less expensive, is less invasive and is associated with much lower risk of complications. Yet, despite costing much less than tubal sterilization, vasectomy is performed at less than half the rate of tubal sterilization in the United States.

Additionally, we believe it is crucial to provide Oregon men with the resources to take a more active role in family planning to better ensure that their contraceptive needs, and that of their partner, are being met. Making decisions about family planning is one of the most important things men can do to prioritize their sexual health and to participate with their partners in planning the family they want.

House Bill 2678 would remove the unnecessary prohibition and bring Oregon policy in line with the current scope of practice for trained Nurse Practitioners. Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon strongly supports this cost-effective, medically-effective remedy to empower men to take control of their family planning needs.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Terrill Patten".

Laura Terrill Patten  
Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon