



Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette

To: House Committee on Health Care

From: Tricia Stumpf, Regional Manager of Health Services

Date: February 13, 2015

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2678

February 16, 2015

Chair Greenlick and the members of the House Healthcare Committee:

I am the Health Center Manager for the Central Oregon Planned Parenthood Health Center in Bend. We take family planning services seriously and want to see both men and women have access to high-quality contraceptive services when they need them. Currently, access is inhibited by a lack of providers for vasectomies. In early 2014, we had 100 men on the waiting list to receive a vasectomy. A list of that length can take us 6 months to get through, because we simply do not have the providers available. As we speak, we have 92 men around the state who are waiting for a vasectomy and the earliest available appointment is in Portland in mid-May.

We have submitted written testimony from Ryan Brown, a Bend resident who had to wait for eight months to finally receive the procedure. Unfortunately, his story is just one of many here in Bend and around the state. We know that delays in contraceptive services increase the chance of unintended pregnancies.

At Planned Parenthood affiliates in Washington, Nurse Practitioners are trained providers of vasectomy. NPs have been providing vasectomies for more than a decade. One nurse practitioner estimates she has performed more than 1,000 procedures alone. It is already within the scope of practice of NPs in Oregon, and with the proper training, we would also be able to gain expertise in the procedure.

It is also important to increase access to vasectomy so men can 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.

Thank you. Sincerely,

Tricia Stumpf
Regional Manager of Health Services