

TO: House Healthcare Committee
FROM: Adrienne Kincaid
RE: Vote YES on HB 2673
DATE: February 25, 2017

Chairman and Distinguished Committee Members;

My name is Adrienne Kincaid. I'm an Oregon voter writing to urge your support for HB 2673, which would materially improve the lives of transgender Oregonians like myself. Although my identity documentation was changed a quarter century ago, save for my original birth certificate, the issues that would be ameliorated with the passage of the bill under consideration are still much the same.

I started transition during the Presidency of George Bush the Elder in California. A quarter century ago, going through the process was long, embarrassing and rather expensive at a time I could hardly afford the cost of a legal name change. I had to go to DMV explain why I needed my driver's license changed with a letter in hand from my physician stating that I was being treated for gender dysphoria. There I was, 24 years old, standing in a long line of patrons at the DMV right at the beginning of the Panhandle of Golden Gate Park. When I get to the counter, I had to explain things to the person and then explain things to her supervisor. When I went to Social Security to get that taken care of, the whole process repeated itself.

Several years ago, I lost my wallet at PCC Rockwood and had to get a new Oregon license. Since I have no other ID, I brought my birth certificate with my old name on it and my Social Security card with my proper name. The person who helped me at the office was dismissive, called me 'he', and eventually called over a supervisor and another counter clerk. At this point I'd lived in the state of Oregon for well over a decade. Oregon DMV and California DMV both agree that my license should have 'F' on it but this person at the DMV needs to have a discussion and then ask me my surgical status on top of all of that!

I eventually got my license with the correct gender, but that was a deeply humiliating experience. There is no reason for the process needs to be convoluted nor should it really require that a transgendered person navigate the treacherous and terrifying first few years of transition, be subject to public exposure of a matter that could hardly be more intimate.

The bill under consideration, by streamlining the process, and creating a more private option, would save other transgendered people the kinds of experiences I went though. I strongly encourage you to pass this bill.

Sincerely yours,

Adrienne J Kincaid
Southeast Portland, OR