

TO: House Healthcare Committee
FROM: J Christian
DATE: February 16, 2017
RE: Vote YES on HB 2673

Chair Mitch Greenlick and Members of Committee:

I am writing to ask for your support HB 2673 to improve the lives of transgender Oregonians.

I began updating my ID documents a year ago, and am completing the process this month. Before I decided to start updating my ID, I endured regular instances of being called by the wrong name or being misgendered when doing business with utilities, banks, or insurance, going to a new doctor, or just going grocery shopping. This is a frustrating and stressful way to live one's life, but I delayed changing my name until I had a good job with flexible hours because of the cost, the nature of the process and the paperwork involved.

Because I live in Clackamas County I faced additional barriers. To change one's name in Clackamas, instead of a court date, you are required to go to the courthouse multiple times and post notice of your intent to change your ID information. These notices list your old ID information, your new ID information, your reason for making the change, and your personal contact information. The posted notices go in large binders full of all other sorts of public notices. As I was posting my notices, there were other people there, posting notices or going about their business as well. Anyone can walk down and leaf through these binders. When you are required to post the same notice several times in a month, it's likely that someone will see yours.

I was disturbed at how easily someone could have found my home address, my phone number, and the reason I wanted to change my name, especially during a time when transgender people are exposed to heightened visibility and harassment. I'm not troubled by complicated paperwork: I have purchased vehicles, a house, and I regularly file long form taxes. But I am troubled by processes that make me feel demoralized and exposed.

Making this process easier, less costly and consistent from county to county will go a long way toward reducing discrimination for transgender people. I strongly encourage you to pass HB 2673.

Thank you.

J Christian
Milwaukie, OR