

TO: House Healthcare Committee
FROM: C. Terrill Thompson
DATE: February 20, 2017
RE: Vote YES on HB 2673

Chair Mitch Greenlick and Members of Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2673, a bill to help transgender Oregonians. I am myself transgender. I was born and raised in Oregon and have recently returned. It is a complicated thing to have been raised here a girl and returned as an adult male. I am deeply grateful that I could change all of my IDs before moving back to Oregon to reflect my chosen name and to a gender marker match my identity and presentation. All but one, that is. I have not been able to change my birth certificate because of the court appearance requirement. It was far too costly for me to fly back to Oregon from where I was living in Pennsylvania to undergo that process. I fear the day that I need to produce a birth certificate that displays a different name and gender than the rest of my identification documents. Were the process simplified and less costly, it would allow me to update my birth certificate.

While I completed my legal name change process while I was living in Pennsylvania. I do know how complicated, costly and frightening the process can be here. I hope that you will do everything you can to make the process accessible to the people who need it. Being able to make it a private process is essential. It can be frightening and even life threatening for transgender people to have to make their name change process public. Unfortunately, there are many communities in our state that are not welcoming to transgender people. We need to be able to access the services we need without putting our lives at risk.

HB 2673 is an opportunity to put this process in reach of transgender Oregonians and protect our safety.

Thank you for caring for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,



C. Terrill Thompson
Eugene, OR 97405