



March 15, 2017

Chair Greenlick, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of OR, we respectfully request your support for the Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB 3391).

Since 1935, AAUW has been working towards reproductive freedom and we support the ruling in *Roe v Wade* that legalized abortion for all women. Unfortunately, reproductive rights have been under attack for decades --- even before *Roe v Wade*. We are hopeful that Oregon will not reverse course and follow down this costly and dangerous path.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has made a positive impact on women's health. Unwanted pregnancies have dropped from 51 to 45 percent, the first decline in decades. We now face the possible repeal or significant revision of the ACA that will turn back these gains. More importantly, a significant number of Oregonians won't be able to access the most basic of reproductive health care services if ACA's protections are diminished.

Reductions in comprehensive reproductive health care coverage will not only create increasingly challenging financial and budgetary stress for Oregon, but it will also seriously impair the ability of women and their families to thrive. If Oregonians can't afford this coverage, they will go without. This is a downward spiral we should avoid by making sure this coverage continues.

As with the ACA, coverage should be extended to all Oregonians regardless of income or citizenship status. Transgender and gender-nonconforming Oregonians often need services ordinarily seen as women's health care, and there is no reason why they should not be able to access them.

By establishing comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services, the Oregon Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB 3391), you will not only be making a sound financial decision but, more importantly, you will be fostering public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care.

AAUW of OR supports HB 3391 because we know that Oregonians need access to full reproductive health coverage for all families to thrive, for a stronger economy and for a healthier state. We hope that you will join us in support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

Sincerely,

Trish Garner

State Public Policy Chair, AAUW of OR

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