



Date: March 15, 2017

To: Oregon House Committee on Healthcare

From: Emily McLain, Oregon Education Association

Re: Support for HB 3391

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Education Association as a proud member of the Fair Shot coalition respectfully asks you to join us in support of HB 3391. The National Education Association has for decades now had a strong position of support for reproductive freedom and access to reproductive healthcare.

The Oregon Education Association represents over 44,000 members across the state of Oregon. Our members are educators working in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public schools and community colleges. OEA's membership includes licensed teachers and specialists, classified/education support professionals (ESPs), community college faculty, retired educators, and student members.

We know that the health of students is directly tied to their academic success. Similarly, when all members of a community, including educators, and family members of students can access needed healthcare they can show up ready to work, learn, and support each other. We support HB 3391 because it seeks to address barriers to access reproductive healthcare for all Oregonians. When the cost of care must first come out of a high deductible, these services can be unaffordable and inaccessible for many.

Restrictions on reproductive health care can have profoundly harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care. This legislation ensures that all Oregonians can decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances.

Reproductive health is a top priority and a pressing issue. In fact, 47 percent of all high school students reported having had sexual intercourse in 2013.¹ We know that access and affordability is critical for Oregonians. That is why OEA supports HB 3391 because we know that Oregonians need access to full reproductive health coverage for all families to thrive, for successful educational institutions, and a healthier state. We hope that you will join us in support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

¹ Centers for Disease Control Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance 2013
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>