

Testimony submitted via email.

To: Chair Greenlick and members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Barbara G. Ellis, Ph.D., principal, Ellis & Associates of Portland OR

Subject: Testimony regarding HB 3391

Most Oregonians—including those among you in the legislature or state administration—know girls/women in their families or friends who are too poor to afford a checkup or care for reproductive health. HB 3391 is a bill for overall “well-woman” care that involves the Oregon Health Authority to cover everything from physical exams, diagnosis and treatment of problems to counseling and providing medications and contraceptive devices—even voluntary sterilization.

Screenings are for sexually transmitted infections—chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis, syphilis, AIDs, etc.—but, more importantly, can also detect “life-threateners” such as early stage cancers, diabetes, major heart defects, multiple sclerosis, and the like.

The need for such services is monumental in this state. The nationally renown Guttmacher Center reported that in 2014 some 19,450 Oregon teens used contraceptive services and devices, perhaps one of the reasons that this state could report a 15% decline in abortions since 2011; 9,330 abortions were performed in 2014. As the rate decreases, of course contraceptive and counseling needs increase.

As to costs, taxpayers were saved a total gross of \$162,349,000 in 2010 for family planning services at publicly funded safety-net health centers like the Oregon Health Authority, according to a Guttmacher official.

Passing this bill is a win-win situation for Oregon’s women and girls—and, moreover, for families who would otherwise have to pick up the medical costs for those they love.

Please do it!