



Transgender Health Program  
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The OHSU Transgender Health Program strongly supports HB 2673A. This proposed legislation would make two simple fixes to existing Oregon law to ensure that transgender Oregonians have access to a safer, more affordable and streamlined process for obtaining documentation that accurately reflects their gender identity.

Currently to update their birth certificate, a transgender person must go through a court to request a legal name change or gender marker amendment and then take the court order to the OHA's Vital Records Department. Many transgender Oregonians fear being publicly outed by having sensitive medical and personal information disclosed in open court and their gender and name changes posted on a public bulletin board. Some courts also require the disclosure of intrusive evidence of gender transition.

In addition, the court process is inconsistent from county to county and can be costly and hard to navigate. Many people who are transgender cannot afford representation to guide them through the process. Transgender Oregonians disproportionately have lower incomes, often due to discrimination in employment and health care access.

Name and gender identification is at the forefront of patient interactions in healthcare settings. Having a more accessible process by which transgender Oregonians can acquire legal name and gender identifications that are affirming to one's gender identity is surely an opportunity to remove a longstanding deterrent to accessing both preventative and urgent healthcare.

The OHSU Transgender Health Program, launched in January 2015, provides safe, comprehensive, affirming healthcare for the transgender and gender nonconforming communities. We endeavor to improve the community's overall wellbeing through education research and leadership that responds to the healthcare needs of transgender and gender nonconforming people throughout Oregon and beyond.

Respectfully,

*Amy Penkin, LCSW*

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