



April 1, 2017

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As the LGBTQ Community Center in Portland, Q Center is well acquainted with the struggles that transgender people go through to just be their authentic selves. It is a journey filled with many obstacles that impact a community which already experiences extreme disparities in employment, income and discrimination. As a hub for the LGBTQ community, we provide a place where community members can reach out for information concerning transgender friendly doctors, support groups, mental health resources etc. A consistent resource inquiry that we receive from the Oregon transgender community is how do you change your legal documents to reflect who you are, where do you go to file this paperwork and do we provide financial support to help with the legal costs because they cannot afford it. We hear on a regular basis from people in the transgender community who put off having very necessary medical care because of the fear of going to a doctor, clinic, etc. and being outed as a transgender person because their identity documentation doesn't match who they are and then being exposed to potential discrimination and bigotry.

A few weeks ago, we hosted a transgender ID clinic at Q Center. Attorneys, doctors and LGBTQ organizations came together to provide a place where trans people could have their questions answered in regards to changing their personal documentation and from the turnout of 200+ people, it was readily apparent that many people needed help and assistance with this process but didn't have a place to go with their questions and concerns. Just a further indication of how much this legislation is needed.

So with these concerns and experiences in mind, I am writing to extend my support for HB 2673: Safety and Access for Transgender Oregonians and I urge the committee to support this bill as well.

Sincerely,

Stacey Rice

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