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TO: The Honorable Floyd Prozanski, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Jennifer Woodward, State Registrar
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SUBJECT: HB 2673A

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee; I am Jennifer Woodward, State Registrar, Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority. I am here today to provide information on House Bill 2673A. This bill establishes a new process to change a name on a birth record when a person has adopted a new name for the purpose of affirming gender identity and a new process for persons seeking to change sex classification on their birth record.

Under House Bill 2673A, persons affirming a different gender identity will no longer need to get a court order for name change or to have the sex classification change on their birth records. These changes can be made by providing forms and documentation to the state registrar to amend the birth records as outline in law. The forms and documentation are prescribed by the state registrar through the rule making process. Name and sex can be changed only once without a court order.

Rulemaking will need to be completed to implement the new law. Input from the community impacted by this law will be essential and will require numerous Rules Advisory Committee meetings. Rulemaking will require additional resources within the Center for Health Statistics. Resources will also need to be dedicated to preparing new forms, changing procedures and work processes in the Center as well as preparing communications to the public and partners.

In addition, House Bill 2673A removes the requirement of public notice of application to change name for all individuals. Individuals would no longer need to request a waiver of the requirement on a case-by-case basis.

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Basic Rights of Oregon requested input from the Center for Health Statistics on the Legislative Concept starting in the fall of 2016. The introduced bill and respective amendments address our concerns, specifically related to the operative date. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Basic Rights of Oregon on this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am happy to be a resource to the committee.