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Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon

To: House Committee on Healthcare

From: Thomas Ewing, M.D., Vice President of Medical Services, Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon

Date: February 22, 2017

Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 2103

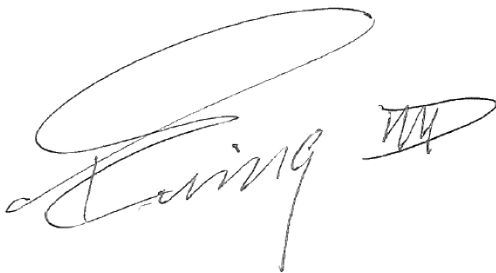
Chair Greenlick, members of the committee,

Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon (PPSO) provides more than 30,000 patient visits each year. Our health centers and staff members present an environment that is honest, non-judgmental, and supportive. At our six health centers throughout southwestern Oregon, we provide life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings, vasectomies, contraceptive counseling and services, preconception counseling, STD testing, prevention and treatment, and more.

As a physician, the Medical Director at PPSO, and as a deeply experienced vasectomist, I support House Bill 2103. Vasectomy is a simple surgical procedure, one of the most effective methods of birth control, is relatively low-risk, and serious complications are rare. Nurse Practitioners perform many of the same tasks that physicians do as a matter of routine, and perform them just as well. I am confident that with a comprehensive training program Nurse Practitioners can be prepared to perform vasectomies. Our colleagues in Washington State at Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest have Nurse Practitioners that are trained providers of vasectomy and have been for decades.

I believe HB 2103 represents a cost-effective and practical solution to the problem that men in parts of Oregon face in accessing vasectomy, and I urge your support.

Sincerely,



Tom Ewing, MD