



February 25, 2019

Dear Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon, I respectfully request your support for HB 2589 to strike outdated and offensive language related to employment anti-discrimination law.

Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Oregonians experience equality. Through the legislature's leadership our state has made great progress in protecting and upholding the rights of LGBTQ citizens, and it's important that our state statutes reflect that.

HB 2589 is a vital step forward in modernizing provisions in our employment anti-discrimination law. By removing offensive, outdated terms such as "transsexualism" and "transvestism," and striking the association between transgender people and those with "sexual behavior disorders," this bill affirms the dignity of transgender Oregonians.

Additionally, this bill cleans up the statute to conform with the Oregon Equality Act around anti-discrimination protections for transgender people. This is particularly important as data shows transgender Oregonians face greater employment discrimination than their non-transgender peers.

Every effort we can make to ensure clear, legal protections LGBTQ Oregonians is vital, so we urge you to vote yes in support of HB 2589. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy Haque
Executive Director