



April 22, 2019

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Senate 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On behalf of Basic Rights Oregon, I respectfully request your support for HB 2589 to strike outdated and offensive language related to employment anti-discrimination law.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. We believe that Oregon has made a lot of progress in terms of protecting and upholding the rights of LGBTQ citizens, and it's important that its legal statutes reflect that. We're especially concerned with transgender justice which is why we are in full support of HB2589.

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 By removing offensive, outdated terms such as "transsexualism" and "transvestism," and striking the association between transgender people and those with "sexual behavior disorders," this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 provides clarification around the status of protection for transgender people under anti-discrimination laws. This is particularly important as transgender Oregonians often face increased employment discrimination.

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

*Nancy Haque*  
*Executive Director*