



## Oregon Association of County Clerks

oacclerks.org

Contact: Rob Bovett  
OACC Legal Counsel  
oaccrob@gmail.com  
541-270-7414

February 26, 2023

### **Written Testimony before the House Rules Committee in Support of Dash-1 Amendments to House Bill 2032**

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Senators Hansell, Manning, and Steiner,

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) urges you to support House Bill 2032 with the Dash-1 amendments dated February 23, 2023.

The purpose of HB 2032 is simple: To provide the same two options - marriage or domestic partnership - to all consenting couples, regardless of sex.

**The Dash-1 amendments provide a good reminder that, although both a marriage and a domestic partnership are binding agreements between two persons, there are important differences between those two options.**

For example, some states don't recognize domestic partnerships. In addition, some federal laws treat a domestic partnership differently than a marriage. The Dash-1 amendments and the testimony of PERS are good examples of those kind of differences. There are also differences upon dissolution, such as spousal support, which was discussed on the House floor during deliberations on this bill.

Couples entering into a marriage or domestic partnership should ensure they fully understand these differences, especially as those differences might impact their own lives.

If House Bill 2032 passes, County Clerks will be able to offer consenting couples both options, irrespective of sex. However, County Clerks cannot give legal, tax, or financial advice. A person or couple deciding between those two choices should consider consulting with their own legal, tax, or financial advisor about the differences between a marriage and a domestic partnership.