

DATE: March 15, 2023

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

FROM: Rebecca Nelson

RE: Support HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Rebecca Nelson and I am writing to express **support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care**, which will help create a future in which everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender-affirming health care.

I believe that access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right, and my fellow Oregonians have repeatedly affirmed their support for making abortion safe and accessible to all. This state has long valued the right to choose when and whether to start a family and the right to bodily autonomy.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care, and nobody should be denied gender-affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender-affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. After the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, we now have eighteen states which have abortion bans or serious restrictions in effect, including our neighbor Idaho. This decreased access exacerbates existing reproductive health care deserts, especially in Eastern Oregon, as our state experiences a surge in out-of-state patients.

HB 2002 centers those who face the most barriers to accessing care in policy-making and resourcing. The recommendations from Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group were developed with impacted communities, providers, and organizations working on the ground to meet this moment.

As a cisgender, queer/lesbian woman, I've experienced several barriers firsthand in accessing reproductive and sexual health care, even here in Oregon, particularly due to my income and sexual orientation. I've also seen members of my LGBTQ+ community face challenges in accessing needed gender-affirming care, and I want to make sure that we're taking the necessary steps so Oregonians will no longer face these or other

barriers when making choices that are best for their own health and lives.

This is why I urge your **yes vote on HB 2002**. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nelson  
Eugene, OR