

March 16, 2023

House Committee Members On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am the parent of children attending Oregon public schools and I oppose HB 2002 as it dangerously targets and impacts healthcare decisions of minor children while in some cases restricting and prohibiting parental oversight and consent.

This bill closely resembles aspects of the Oregon Compulsory Public Education Act of 1922 which was rendered unconstitutional and nullified by the Supreme Court in 1925 by the Walter M. Pierce v. Society of Sisters unanimous decision.

As HB 2002 is discussed in Committee on March 20th, please keep in mind a key paragraph of the Walter M. Pierce v. Society of Sisters decision as was written almost 100 years ago:

*"The Act of 1922 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and education of children under their control. As often heretofore pointed out, rights guaranteed by the Constitution may not be abridged by **legislation which has no reasonable relation to some purpose within the competency of the state.** The fundamental theory of liberty upon which all governments in this Union repose excludes any general power of the state to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. **The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.**"*

HB 2002 unreasonably interferes with the liberty of parents and guardians to direct the upbringing and health care of children under their control. Legislatively forcing an insurance company to pay for dangerous medical procedures without the payee's knowledge or consent, which HB2002 does, absolutely violates a parent's constitutional right to determine what is best for their children.

HB 2002 is a threat and extreme danger to the dignity and rights of humans, especially those who are tossed aside, disregarded, and disposed of under the deceptive definitions the state of Oregon unconstitutionally establishes. Repealing criminal provisions relating to concealing the birth of a child is a shameful crime against humanity, it encourages abusive behavior and legally protects the grave, immoral act of infanticide. Why would lawmakers do this to Oregonians and impart such a destructive mindset onto our children?

I urge you to consider the extreme dangers and unconstitutionality of HB 2002. Oregonians deserve protection, not the exploitation that HB 2002 will certainly deliver if passed into law. Please do not support HB 2002.

Sincerely,
Shannon Garlitz
Union County, OR