

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

My name is Julia Salomone, a Planned Parenthood intern, 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.

This bill is essential in protecting and expanding the rights of Oregonians, especially in the recent attacks in other states on reproductive freedom. For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. Eighteen states currently 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.

I moved to Oregon from Florida, a state that continues to undergo relentless attacks on reproductive and sexual health care. Every year, Florida gets less and less safe for anyone with a uterus, and with the overturning of Roe V. Wade politicians are taking the opportunity to strip reproductive rights entirely. I feel so grateful to be in a state where I feel safe and know I have access to reproductive healthcare. However, these attacks are not only occurring in states like Florida. When we are not actively protecting and expanding rights in Oregon, we are at risk of complacency, and at risk of failing to protect Oregonians. By passing HB 2002, you ensure that Oregon remains a safe state for people to receive reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming care, and you assure Oregonians that you will fight to protect them.

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

Sincerely,  
Julia Salomone