

March 16, 2023
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Re: HB 2002

As a resident of over 50 years of Tualatin, Oregon and as a mother and grandmother of children who live in this state, I write this to share my deep concerns and protest against HB 2002. I am a retired educator who has worked in both high school and elementary schools over my 40 years career where I spent a great deal of time working with children consider at risk of dropping out of high school because of pregnancy and/or other risk factors.

It is my opinion that the bill endangers children and works against the best interests of Oregonians by:

1. By lowering the age limit on abortions and gender transition medications/ surgeries and related inquiries and at the same time limiting parental notification rights. *When parental support and wisdom is most needed, this legislation blocks it. That 's wrong and dangerous.*
2. The bill wrongly conflates the Pro Life agenda with that of being against medically needed D&C procedure to remove from the womb remainders of a miscarriage and to contraceptives in general. *Neither of these implications are true.*
3. The bill protects the medical professionals from being sued or held accountable but does not offer reasonable protection for clients/patients who have been wrongly treated.
4. Lastly, the bill puts a wall of protection around child abusers by limiting mandatory reporting or child pregnancies and abortions.
5. By limiting medical professionals from discussing possible alternatives or of giving a complete and accurate account of risks regarding the procedures protected in this bill, patients/clients needing help are not given the help needed to critically consider the processes being considered. *That is bad medicine!*

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