

Submitter: Kaden Winterkorn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 18, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Kaden Winterkorn, Resilience Counseling

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Kaden Winterkorn, and I am a mental health therapist in private practice. 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.

It has been upsetting to see other states pass legislation that bars residents from receiving reproductive and gender-affirming care and that targets their providers. Such legislation puts some of the most vulnerable people in our community at risk. I urge you to support HB2002 and demonstrate your support for residents whose lives depend on being able to access reproductive and gender affirming care.

I am a transgender therapist who works with transgender clients. I know both personally and professionally how not having insurance coverage for gender-affirming care or being able to access it because of wait times or geography erodes people's mental health and well-being. This political moment with anti-trans bills sweeping the country is terrifying for many of us. We need you to stand with us and the providers who show up to offer us life-saving care so that we know we are protected in the place that we live.

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

Sincerely,

Kaden Winterkorn