



Oregon moms and caregivers fighting for gender, economic, and racial justice.

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
From: Family Forward Oregon
Date: March 20, 2023
RE: In Support of HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2002. Family Forward Oregon is committed to strengthening the economic security of mothers, caregivers, parents, and families through bold policies, including the right to access the full spectrum of reproductive health care. As members of the Fair Shot Coalition, we support this legislation as part of our ongoing effort for racial and gender justice in Oregon.

Last summer, the U.S Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ending nearly 50 years of the federal constitutional right to abortion. This decision has set a incredibly dangerous precedent for who has the authority to make decisions for us about our bodies. Since then, states across the nation are taking steps to further ban and restrict access to gender-affirming care and life-saving medical care to transgender and gender-expansive people. Six in 10 women who have abortions are already mothers, and half of them have two or more children¹. One of the main reasons people report wanting to have an abortion is so they can be a better parent to the kids they already have.

Upon passage of Idaho's abortion ban in August, the number of abortions per month in Oregon has gone up by 18%.² The Guttmacher Institute estimates that Oregon could see a potential 234% increase in out-of-state patients as more states move to ban abortion.

Despite having some of the strongest protections to reproductive health services in state law, Oregon is not immune to attacks on health care access and human rights. For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. 78% of Oregon counties currently do not have an abortion provider and Eastern Oregonians are estimated to experience a 35% decrease in access to sexual and reproductive health care as a result of Idaho's abortion ban.

HB 2002 was established by Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care workgroup in collaboration with more than 80 stakeholders and centers those who face the

¹ 2019 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

²https://www.societyfp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SFPWeCountReport_AprtoAug2022_ReleaseOct2022-1.pdf

most barriers to accessing care in policy-making and resourcing. We support the policy proposals in HB 2002 which include but are not limited to:

Protecting Providers and Health Centers:

- Preventing interference with health care centers and protecting providers from harassment and abuse and ensuring that the confidentiality and privacy of providers is protected

Expanding Access to Care:

- Closing gaps in: insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities
- Enhancing access to care in medically-underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program and by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions

Ensuring Fundamental Rights:

- Protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state, Codifying the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care

The Oregon Legislature has an opportunity to continue standing as a national leader for reproductive health care access and LGBTQ+ rights. Without further protections, women, trans and gender-expansive people, people of color, and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.

Family Forward Oregon urges your YES vote on HB 2002.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kwon
Policy Manager
Family Forward Oregon

