

Submitter: Melanie Zermer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Dear Committee Members

I support a woman's right to choose when she starts a family, in consultation with the loved-ones of her choosing and her medical provider. She is the one whose body will bare the course of events during pregnancy. She is the one who will be responsible for the social and emotional well being of the child. She is the one whose life will be directly affected and so, she should get to choose. Until we live in a society that supports a "just" society - one where all have equitable opportunities and support to make a living and pursue our right to happiness - it's not fair to force a woman to give birth.

With respect to gender-affirming care. I've watched the pain of a dear friend who is a transgender woman. I can't begin to go into all the trauma she's experienced from people who "other" her because they don't understand or they demonize trans people because their religious belief system tells them to. Allowing people to be the best they can be and reach their highest potential is a value I hold deeply. Any way we as a society can help people be their best, I'm all for. And I will not get in their way because I assume I know better than them. So, I support gender-affirming care. And if someone thinks it's too expensive, let's rethink the actual number of people seeking that care, and what we gain economically and socially, when people are operating at their highest capacity in the gender they identify with.

Thank you,
Melanie Zermer
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