

Submitter: Malea Tennyson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 19, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Malea Tennyson

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Malea Tennyson 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.

I've been a volunteer with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon for six years. From talking to voters every election cycle and hearing countless stories, I've seen that Oregonians consistently value and affirm the right to choose when and whether to start a family and the right to bodily autonomy. With that in mind, I firmly believe that it is our responsibility here in Oregon to protect our providers, patients (especially our most vulnerable) by expanding both access to care and protections for those providing and accessing it.

Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right, and no one should be denied access to this right because of who they are, who they love, where they live, or the opinions of those around them. The passage of RHEA helped so many people access reproductive healthcare that they weren't able to before, including me. Still, despite RHEA and the Reproductive Health Equity Fund, and even before the Dobbs decision, Oregonians still faced many geographic, financial, and societal barriers to accessing abortion, contraception, and gender-affirming care. Now with the increased demand from patients who live in states with extreme bans, these barriers are more and more pronounced. We need ways to combat these barriers and increase access for everyone who needs care, and that's what HB 2002 aims to do.

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

Sincerely,
Malea Tennyson
Aloha, Oregon