

Submitter: Andrea Daube

Committee: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

Measure: HB 2002

March 19, 2023

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

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2002.

I am a nurse practitioner working at Planned Parenthood of Columbia Willamette in Bend, Oregon. As part of my role, I provide medication abortions, procedural abortions, and gender-affirming care. During graduate school, I focused my doctoral project on ways to protect abortion providers against anti-choice extremists.

Even prior to the overturning of *Roe v Wade*, the amount of anti-abortion violence aimed at healthcare providers was staggering. In 1991, violence by antiabortion extremists was first deemed an "epidemic."<sup>1</sup> Since then, however, the violence has increased exponentially and has been associated with the increased restrictiveness of state abortion laws.<sup>1</sup> Major violence against abortion care providers has escalated and expanded to include 11 documented murders, 42 bombings, and 491 cases of assault.<sup>4</sup>

Because of the deadlier implications of the most recent antiabortion violence, "even minor harassment implies the threat of murder."<sup>1</sup> Qualitative data suggest that abortion providers spend a significant amount of time worrying about threats of violence against them.<sup>2</sup> In a 2011 pilot study of an abortion care stigma workshop, one physician stated that she was acutely aware that "anybody [could] just shoot [her]," or that a "bomb could go off as she twists the ignition" on her car.<sup>3</sup>

**A medical provider should never have to choose between providing patient care and maintaining their own personal safety.** Yet, according to a 2018 survey, fifty-one percent of abortion care providers reported having been verbally threatened or attacked as a result of working in abortion care; 11% have been physically threatened or attacked.<sup>3</sup> 13% of abortion care providers reported that one of their family members has been harassed or discriminated against by others who found out about their personal work in abortion care.

Since the fall of *Roe v Wade*, Oregon has been flooded by patients seeking essential abortion-care services. Simultaneously, this care has become more politicized and polarized. While clinicians that provide abortion services are needed now more than ever, the threats that face abortion providers grow. 2021 data released by the National Abortion Federation reveals that stalking of abortion providers has increased by 600%, blockading by 450%, invasions by 129%, and assault/battery by 128%.<sup>4</sup> **The time providers spend worrying for their safety is time ultimately taken away from patient care and is a deterrent from providing abortion**

**care even as the demand in Oregon increases.** The violence statistics and their reality sit ever-present in my mind, and are reflected in my daily thoughts and actions: the vigilance I practice when I walk a patient to their car, the trickle of dread I feel as I lock up the clinic in the dark.

**I am deeply grateful for the protections for reproductive health providers that HB 2002 proposes.** The introduction of HB 2002 has sparked hope for a safer future- for myself, my family, my colleagues, and my patients.

Respectfully,

Andrea Daube, DNP, APRN, WHNP-BC

<sup>1</sup> Russo, J. A., Schumacher, K. L., & Creinin, M. D. (2012). Antiabortion violence in the United States. *Contraception*, 86, 562–566. <https://doi-org.akin.css.edu/10.1016/j.contraception.2012.02.011>

<sup>2</sup> Martin, L. A., Hassinger, J. A., Seewald, M., & Harris, L. H. (2018). Evaluation of abortion stigma in the workforce: Development of the revised abortion providers stigma scale. *Women's Health Issues*, 28(1), 59–67. <https://doi-org.akin.css.edu/10.1016/j.whi.2017.10.004>

<sup>3</sup> Harris, L. H., Debbink, M., Martin, L., & Hassinger, J. (2011). Dynamics of stigma in abortion work: Findings from a pilot study of the Providers Share Workshop. *Social Science & Medicine*, 73, 1062–1070. <https://doi-org.akin.css.edu/10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.07.004>

<sup>4</sup> National Abortion Federation. (2022). National abortion federation releases 2021 violence and disruption report. <https://prochoice.org/national-abortion-federation-releases-2021-violence-disruption-report/>