

Submitter: Julia Lager Mesulam

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

As a social worker and someone who has worked in the HIV community since the early 90s I strongly support HB2002. I have seen too many times the LGBTQ+ community be impacted negatively by legislation that is not inclusive of the communities needs and historical trauma that has occure within the health care system. In all my years of working in public health it is evident that when populations are denied access to health care of all kinds, they suffer and the entire community suffers. We need to ensure that everyone who seeks reproductive and gender affirming care has access to it in their communities. Without this access, we will see an increase in mental health needs, suicide attempts and death by suicide. We need to ensure that providers are protected to provide lifesaving and life changing change to those who seek it and not be at risk for prosecution or physical harm. This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your work and attention to this issue.

Julia Lager Mesulam, LCSW