



Legacy Health
1919 N.W. Lovejoy St.
Portland, OR 97209
503.415.5600 *phone*
50.415.5777 *fax*

March 17, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Re: House Bill 2002

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

Legacy Health is a nonprofit health care provider in the Portland-Vancouver area and mid-Willamette Valley with an integrated network of care providers in over 100 primary care, urgent care, and specialty care clinics, and six community-based and nationally recognized hospitals.

Legacy supports House Bill 2002 because it is our mission to provide good health for our people, our patients, our communities, and our world. We take our commitments seriously. We believe all people deserve access to the care they need when they need it.

The decision issued by the U.S. Supreme Court eliminating the federal protection for abortion established almost 50 years ago with *Roe vs. Wade* is dangerous and unjust. Abortion is health care. As an organization dedicated to caring for patients, we know that people's ability to make their own medical decisions is essential to their health and well-being.

In Oregon and Washington, abortion is protected by state law, but many states are moving to outlaw abortion in all or most cases. This will put access to safe, legal abortion out of reach for millions of people across the country. We are gravely concerned about the effect this unequal access will have on people of color, people with limited means, and other vulnerable people in our country. The U.S. Supreme Court decision also puts people at risk of being policed for seeking and providing health care.

Legacy Health is also committed to providing safe, affirming, and comprehensive health care to transgender, gender diverse, and intersex communities. We work diligently to ensure care is free from discrimination and supported by the recommendations of several professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychological Association, and other providers across professions who recognize that gender is not determined by anatomy or sex assigned at birth.

I see in my own medical practice how vital it is to both physical and emotional health that patients have access to safe, quality reproductive and gender affirming care. This includes having the right and ability to make the health care decisions that are right for them.

Legacy remains committed to the care, health, and wellness of all people. We will continue to strongly advocate for the care of our diverse communities and support policies at the local, state, and federal levels that protect and maintain access to care.

Sincerely,

Melinda Muller MD

[Melinda Muller MD \(Mar 17, 2023 16:13 PDT\)](#)

Melinda Muller, MD, FACP
Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer