

March 20, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support House Bill 2002

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson and members of the Committee,

My name is Beth and I am a resident of Milwaukie. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 2002, which would continue to protect and expand our right and access to the full spectrum of reproductive health and gender affirming care in Oregon.

Many people in our state, including myself, have often faced barriers to accessing the full reproductive care we need. I have had multiple experiences in which doctors have dismissed the symptoms I was experiencing until the issue became worse. Since the *Dobbs* decision, I have been terrified that if I were to become pregnant, I would not be able to make the best decision for my family and me. Everyone deserves comprehensive access to reproductive and gender affirming care, and to live without fear that they will be discriminated against by healthcare officials or others because of their identities.

In order to achieve racial, economic, and gender justice for all, we must have the rights, resources, and recognition of everyone to control their bodies, lives, and futures. Access to the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care is a basic human right. However, we are seeing attacks across the country that are attempting to deny people their rights with efforts to ban and restrict access to abortion, and to gender-affirming care.

In Oregon, we can ensure our right to the full spectrum of reproductive health and gender-affirming care is protect and accessible with HB 2002, which would:

- **Protect providers and patients:** Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon and protecting individuals from criminal and civil liability for supporting, or providing reproductive healthcare.
- **Expand Access:** Closing gaps in insurance coverage for gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare. Addressing reproductive healthcare deserts by expanding services.

- **Ensure Fundamental Rights:** Codify the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care and protect the privacy of individuals who receive, support, or provide reproductive and gender-affirming care.

As Oregonians, we can all agree that every person deserves to make their own decisions about our bodies and our medical care. To achieve that ideal, we need to protect the right to abortion and gender-affirming care, and make that care accessible to *all* Oregonians. For these reasons, I urge your support for House Bill 2002 and ask you to pass it out of committee.

Respectfully,
Beth Walker