

Submitter: Laura Guerrero
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: Laura Guerrero, LCSW
RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Laura Guerrero, LCSW 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 every person in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own body and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

For many Oregonians, reproductive and gender affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. Eighteen states currently have abortion bans or serious restrictions in effect, including our neighbor Idaho. This will impact our already stretched resources but it is imperative that we provide them. And ALL providers and patients deserve the right to safety and privacy.

Washington state enacted very similar legislation to this bill in 2021, and there has been very little fiscal impact to the state.

I live and work as a LCSW in Josephine County, where the poverty rate is in the double digits. I have seen first hand what the lack of access to health care services does to those who need it most. I have witnessed the discrimination, shame and harm that comes to those who have tried to seek care for their bodily autonomy. I personally have family members who identify as Trans and I know first hand what a difference gender affirming care has made in their lives. My adult child, who has good health insurance, still has to pay a large monthly amount for hormone therapy and is currently saving money for a procedure that requires surgery. We need to help and protect those who are most vulnerable in our community.

The importance of HB 2002 is immeasurable. To codify access, safety and privacy health care, to reproductive and gender affirming care, is a human right. And a right that should be accessible to all, not just the wealthy. This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Laura Guerrero, LCSW
1317 NE 10th St

Grants Pass, OR. 97526

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