

March 20, 2023

Representative Rob Nosse, Chair
House Committee on Behavioral Health
and Health Care
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee,

Multnomah County is in strong support of HB 2002. Passing this bill is a necessary step to ensuring Oregonians have safe access to the full scope of reproductive health services, and protection for those who provide it and receive it.

Access to safe, high quality and effective health care is a fundamental right that Oregon has recognized for decades, the commitment to which has been demonstrated through previous legislation expanding access to care removing historical barriers to high quality care such as income and status. **Expanding and protecting access to reproductive health care is core to that right.** By reducing barriers to contraceptive care for those who seek it, expanding access to Gender Affirming Care and supporting the provision of care in rural federally qualified health centers- HB 2002 ensures that all Oregonians, including those who have been historically marginalized due to low social and economic privilege- are not left behind.

Medical providers are trained to provide the full scope of reproductive health care. Since Roe V Wade was overturned, the provision of safe and effective care has been under threat of criminalization outside of Oregon. **HB 2002 protects healthcare professionals who do their jobs every day to serve the people of Oregon so that they may reach their full potential- including economic potential which is impacted by access to full reproductive health care.** Since the beginning of the pandemic, the healthcare workforce has been overwhelmed and burning out. Healthcare providers are already putting their own health on the line and working in high stress and higher risk environments due to the nature of their work. Multnomah County recently expressed our support for providers with a formal proclamation honoring March 10th as Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, in recognition of the personal and professional challenges facing reproductive healthcare providers in today's legal and political climate.

HB 2002 ensures those who provide the full scope of reproductive services, including abortion care, will have the necessary protections against their licensure and ability to practice when doing work they are trained and legally able to provide in Oregon. General medical practitioners are trained to provide abortion care as it is part of the scope of reproductive health care, the threat of criminalization of those

who provide abortion care outside of Oregon could have the potential to significantly impact the healthcare workforce in Oregon.

The fundamental right to health must be ensured for all Oregonians. HB 2002 expands and protects the rights of Oregonians to the full spectrum of reproductive health care by preventing the criminalization of those who seek to exercise these basic rights.

By increasing access to reproductive health care, ensuring those who are most vulnerable are not left behind, and protecting those who provide care from criminalization so that they may continue to do their jobs, **HB 2002 is the only way to protect all Oregonians' right to fundamental health care.**

Sincerely,



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair



Sharon Meieran
Commissioner, District 1



Susheela Jayapal
Commissioner, District 2



Diane Rosenbaum
Commissioner, District 3



Lori Stegmann
Commissioner, District 4

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