

Submitter: Allison Bernaldez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee, my name is Allison Bernaldez and I am representing my family. Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony about why it is critical to support House Bill 2002, relating to reproductive health rights in Oregon.

I am a parent to three young children. I do not know yet who my kids are going to grow up to be. What I do know, however, is that I do not assume they will not need access to reproductive health care or gender affirming care, or that their friends or cousins will not either. When I see what other states all around the country are doing to restrict the rights of those who may need reproductive health care and gender affirming care, I fear what this country will look like for my children and their generation.

I want my kids to have more control to be able to make decisions about what happens to their bodies than I've often felt I had. During this time, when more rights are being taken away or restricted throughout the United States, Oregon needs to step up and listen to the voices of those who are most impacted by the legislation. Those who need access to reproductive health care and gender affirming care need to be able to make whatever decision is best for them in conjunction with their healthcare provider – and our government needs to ensure those conversations and decisions can happen without any fear of the government stepping in to stop them.

Oregonians deserve to be able to make decisions about what happens to our own bodies, and have treatment coverage when needed. This is why I urge you to vote yes for HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Allison Bernaldez