

Submitter: Brittnie Ogawa
On Behalf Of: Planned Parenthood
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2002
Date: March 20th, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Brittnie Ogawa, Planned Parenthood

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Brittnie Ogawa MS 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 everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

For too 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 decreased access exacerbates existing reproductive health care deserts, especially in Eastern Oregon, as our state experiences a surge in out-of-state patients.

I grew up in a community that taught me that my body wasn't mine and that there were certain expectations of me as a cis-born women. As I became an adult I realized that I am not someone's property, I am my own person. I get to and should continue to be able to make decisions for myself about MY body. This bill will continue to safeguard those rights for me and for those that help provide services I desire.

As a queer individual, countless people in my community would be drastically impacted by the gender affirming care written into this bill. I've seen first hand how health care services can save young and older queer lives. This bill would only insure my community gets to grow old in a body they feel more comfortable in.

This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brittnie Ogawa