

Submitter: Akane 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: Akane Ogawa, Planned Parenthood

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Akane Ogawa, MA 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.

As a out transgender male for the the past 10 years and who also benefits from access to care this will impact my life a great deal. Being someone from Japanese culture I have struggled with accepting myself and my identity for many years. I now have the confidence to be true to myself and to support those who would benefit from House Bill 2002. The only people who have the right to make decisions for my own body is myself.

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

Sincerely,

Akane Ogawa