

March 20, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support House Bill 2002

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson and members of the Committee,

As a current student, it is important to me to support HB 2002; which would codify our right to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, expand access to gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare, and create protections for patients and providers.

No one should be denied access to healthcare, no matter what their age is, and no matter what the condition they are facing. Reproductive and gender-affirming care are essential healthcare services that all Oregonians deserve access to as part of our constitutional liberties, and interpersonal liberties.

When talking to my peers, more and more students are reporting how concerned they are and how stressed they are about the future of accessing reproductive healthcare and gender-affirming care in Oregon. The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade took away our federal constitutional right to abortion — an attack on bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom. The decision has opened the door for anti-abortion attacks across the country in an effort to ban abortion nationwide, and even criminalize it. After the Dobbs decision, students were afraid about losing their rights to their own body, and what an accidental pregnancy would look like with a prospective college education.

When looking at the current legislative session there was a growing number of bills that were introduced in Oregon, and that imposes a direct threat on a student's future. Gender-affirming care is life-saving care. Access to reproductive healthcare is life-saving care. The future of Oregon needs confirmation that these rights will still be protected no matter who is governing, or what new attack is imposed. So please help protect the future of Oregon, and support HB 2002.

Respectfully,  
Aishiki Nag