

Submitter: Amber Crumly

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I can't begin to tell you all how happy I am to see this bill. I'm a transgender woman and have been living in Oregon since 2018. In 2019, I began my journey of medical transition, and I would call my experience largely positive. However, certain procedures which both I and my health care providers agreed would be necessary and helpful were denied by my OHP insurance. I got to start electrolysis for facial hair removal, but I did not get to finish it, because the procedure was deemed "cosmetic" and therefore not worth covering. This served to dissuade me from even trying to access something like facial feminization surgery, which would also serve to treat my dysphoria.

It's been easy to feel like I, as a trans person, don't have much of a place in the world that's taking shape around us. All over this country, people like me are being criminalized and punished for things we have not even done. When I read this bill, I felt like maybe there was reason to hope again. This country sorely needs more states to stand up for their marginalized populations and provide safe haven in this era of growing hate. Oregon has long been at the forefront of progressive legislation in the US, and I urge you to vote \*for\* this bill to maintain that record.

Signed, a trans woman desperate to hope