

Submitter: Hales Skelton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Mr. Hales Emerson Skelton

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Hales Skelton and I work as a care coordinator for transgender and gender-diverse folks seeking affirming surgery through the OHSU Dept of Urology and Transgender Health Program (THP). I am also a current Master of Public Health Student at OHSU-PSU's School of Public Health, Oregon native, and a proudly open transgender man. I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, which will help create a future in which every person in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own body and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

Like so many others, gender-affirming care saved my life, and I am still here today because of it. I was not allowed to transition until my 20s due to lack of familial support, but if I had had the option as a teen, it would have prevented me from the trauma and self-destruction I experienced in my young adulthood. It breaks my heart to see fellow community members in states outside of Oregon struggle to access this essential care. Healthcare is a human right, not a privilege, and this includes ALL facets of care. Oregon must act ethically in protecting the liberties of diverse individuals and their needs, and not follow suit with the states stripping these rights away. After all, peoples' lives depend on it.

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

Sincerely,

Hales E Skelton

*Opinions and views are my own and not representative of that of my employer.