

Submitter: Kathryn Renfroe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 16, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Kathryn Renfroe, PPAO

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Kathryn Renfroe 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.

I am a queer, non-binary birth worker who specializes in providing post abortion care for trans/queer clients who I am hoping to center in today's conversation.

When talking about reproductive care, one of the first things you'll hear from any trans or gender diverse person is how daunting it can be to attain reproductive care; especially care that is gender affirming. Even though I live in an incredibly progressive city that prides itself on its acceptance around all identities, we are lacking accessible care for trans and gender diverse community members. Currently nearly 3/4 of transgender Oregonians do not live near a provider who has openings within a month to receive services. I feel it's incredibly important to understand how this can weigh heavily on people's physical health and mental wellbeing - I myself have had to wait months to receive care for things as serious as ovarian cysts and I wholeheartedly believe that should never be the case for anyone, regardless of their identity. I hope that by passing HB 2002, we can work to protect individuals from criminal and civil liability for supporting, and/or providing reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state. Oregon should strive to be a safe haven for those who no longer have the right to be themselves while seeking care.

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

Sincerely,

Kathryn Renfroe