

# ROGUE ACTION CENTER

March 20th, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

From: Nina Pamintuan, The Rogue Action Center

RE: HB 2002 Reproductive Health and Access to Care

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

My name is Nina Pamintuan and I am a Community Organizer for our LGBTQ+ Listening Project Program at the Rogue Action Center. 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.

With the overturn of Roe v. Wade, we've seen states across the nation take steps to ban and restrict access to gender-affirming care, denying transgender and gender-expansive people life-saving medical care. People in Oregon are already feeling the impact of the rapidly changing healthcare landscape. **Three quarters of Oregon counties do not have an abortion provider. Nearly three quarters of transgender Oregonians do not live near a provider who has openings within a month to receive services.** This can translate to years-long waitlists for life-saving gender affirming care, the likes of which are deeply felt in Southern Oregon. **These disparities in access create harm and isolation within our communities, especially for queer and trans youth.**

LGBTQ+ communities in Southern Oregon, as well as the organizations that serve them, have experienced barriers to identifying gender affirming, culturally competent, and medically accurate providers in our area. While our organization provides gender affirming resource guides, support groups and coalitions, our work must be complemented by systemic shifts in access to gender affirming care in order to make real change. **HB 2002 would show that Oregon is committed to the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ folks in Southern Oregon and other rural areas across the state.**

The Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill (HB 2002) would address growing health disparities and threats to our fundamental rights. The recommendations for HB 2002 were developed in collaboration with impacted communities, providers, and organizations. These recommendations include but are not limited to:

- Close gaps in the healthcare system that are **disproportionately impacting transgender folks and people seeking reproductive healthcare access in rural and underserved parts of Oregon.**
- Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon.
- Protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state

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

Sincerely,  
Nina Pamintuan