

**Testimony Submitted by
Hanna Osman, Policy Researcher/Analyst
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care**

03/20/2023

Regarding: Support for HB 2002

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

For the record, my name is Hanna Osman, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice today in support of HB 2002.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) organizes, advocates, and supports litigation to advance a justice movement that puts people first, ensuring all have the freedom to thrive and equitably share in our abundance of resources. For too long, flawed systems and economic policies that favor profits over people have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing the most significant harm. Strengthened through responsive and reciprocal community relationships, OCJ is building a future where financial and business transactions can be relied upon as safe and where all Oregonians know and have recourse to exercise their consumer rights.

Oregonians have consistently shown their unwavering support for ensuring safe and accessible abortion care for all individuals. The state values the right to choose when and whether to start a family and the right to bodily autonomy. However, the recent Dobbs decision has worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. The ongoing attempts to criminalize access to healthcare will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. This will disproportionately affect individuals of color and low-income families, placing them at risk of further economic and health consequences, including the threat of criminalization.

HB 2002 is a vital step in centering individuals who face the most barriers to accessing healthcare in policy-making and resourcing. The recommendations from Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group were developed in collaboration with impacted communities, providers, and organizations working on the frontlines to address this crisis. These recommendations include but are not limited to:

Protecting Providers and Health Centers:

- Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon
- Preventing interference with health care centers and protecting providers from harassment and abuse
- Ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of providers is protected

Expanding Access to Care:

- Closing gaps in: insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities
- Enhancing access to care in medically-underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program
- Addressing reproductive health care deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions

Ensuring Fundamental Rights:

- Protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state
- Codifying the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care
- Preventing individuals from being criminalized for any pregnancy outcome

This is why we urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your consideration and your service to Oregon's communities.