

Submitter: Allison Ruskell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

FROM: Allison Ruskell

RE: Support for HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

I am writing to you today in support of SB 2002 in order to ensure access to sexual and gender-affirming healthcare for youth. It is essential to a functioning and thriving community that everyone has the ability to genuinely express themselves and have safe access to whatever gender-affirming care that they need.

Within the community here at Willamette University I have been able to see how much gender-affirming healthcare can help people to feel comfortable and confident. Additionally I also have heard many complaints about the inaccessibility of that care. This is a need. Gender-affirming healthcare is healthcare and suicide prevention.

Setting rules for insurance companies to ensure gender-affirming health coverage is an important up-stream solution to the problem of access. HB 2002 will: prohibit limiting gender-affirming care, hold insurance companies accountable for covering gender-affirming care, expand insurance coverage to additional services that support transition, and it would protect care providers.

Additionally we need to ensure that abortion is accessible to everyone in the state of Oregon. Inaccessible abortion will not end abortions, it will only end safe abortions. Abortion is healthcare.

SB 2002 is necessary to ensuring accessible health care to everyone in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Allison Ruskell