

Submitter: Lauren Meekins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

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

My name is Lauren Meekins, and I live in Salem Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 2002.

Oregon needs to support, through law, the improvement of access to abortion and gender-affirming care as a fundamental human right. Restricting gender-affirming care and abortions only further harms people's health and well-being.

Everyone deserves the right to receive the care they need, in a way that respects their identities and ensures and preserves access to lifesaving medical care. This bill necessarily protects patients and healthcare providers and these protections ensure Oregonians fundamental right to health.

Barriers still remain in much of Oregon in getting access to essential healthcare services like abortion and gender-affirming care. While there is still much to be done, we need to take the necessary legislative steps to ensure the preservation of Oregonians safety and security in accessing the services they need.