



March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
From: **Isa Peña, Innovation Law Lab**
Re: Support for HB 2002: Reproductive Health and Access to Care

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin and Vice-Chair Nelson and members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

My name is Isa Peña and I am the Director of Strategy at Innovation Law Lab. Innovation Law Lab is an Oregon-based non-profit that leverages the power of the legal system, technology, and advocacy to support our state's immigrant and refugee population.

I am writing to express our **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.

For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender-affirming care are still out of reach due to distance, income, or insurance coverage. Immigrant and refugee communities are some of the most affected because their lack of immigration status is an obstacle for accessing low cost or free health insurance. Eighteen states currently have abortion bans or serious restrictions in effect, including our neighboring state, Idaho. This decreased access exacerbates shortages in existing reproductive health care deserts, especially in Eastern Oregon, as our state experiences a surge in out-of-state patients.

HB 2002 centers the people who face the most barriers to accessing care in policy-making and resourcing. The recommendations from Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group were developed in lockstep with those for whom this issue matters most: impacted communities, providers, and organizations working on the ground to meet this moment. 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

At Innovation Law Lab, we believe everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care and nobody should be denied gender-affirming care. We urge you to vote YES on HB 2002.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura L. Pena". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.