

Submitter: Kailey James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

March 20, 2023

TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

FROM: Kailey James

RE: Support for HB 2002

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

My name is Kailey James, and I am a full time student at Willamette University. I support HB 2002 because it is essential that the individual's bodily autonomy is protected with access to the full range of safe Reproductive and gender affirming care.

Reproductive and gender affirming care is essential healthcare. As a young woman, my access to the proper medical care gives me a promise of autonomy and the ability to undergo overall safer and especially life saving procedures. The overturn of Roe v. Wade has disproportionately impacted residents of Oregon that already struggled with access to healthcare, and has singled out lower income communities in the process. HB 2002 would provide the supplemental access to health coverage for Oregonians that the federal government has failed to provide.

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.

Oregon has been a national leader in broadening peoples access to healthcare benefits and can continue its legacy while uplifting the Oregonians that need it the most. By passing HB 2002 the legislature will protect Oregonians on multiple fronts, and will continue to prove Oregon's commitment to giving access to reproductive and gender affirming care for all.

I strongly support HB 2002 and the upholding of the individuals right to choose what is best for their body in a safe and accessible way.

Thank you,  
Kailey James