

Attn: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

Date: March 20, 2023

From: Teresa Stewart

**Subject: Please Support HB 2002**

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and members of the committee:

Thank you for your time and consideration. **As a parent and grandparent in Central Oregon, I am eager to submit testimony in support of HB 2002.** Oregon families, especially those in rural and frontier communities like mine, cannot wait for equitable access to reproductive healthcare in all our communities.

**Furthermore, our state cannot continue to allow these inequities to drain our valuable resources on programs like Medicaid, when solutions (like those included in HB 2002) are so clear.**

According to the historic “Count Her In” report<sup>1</sup> conducted by the [Oregon Women’s Foundation](#) in 2016, ***the cost of the status quo in Oregon is substantial: \$51 million dollars were spent at the time this report was published (2016) annually on health care costs to Oregon’s Medicaid system due to unintended pregnancy (prenatal care, delivery, and infants’ first year of life).***

If we address the systemic and social barriers that result in unintended pregnancy by providing equitable access to reproductive healthcare, we alleviate financial burden on our systems, and can reallocate these funds to support Oregonians to live their healthiest lives.

**Please, support HB 2002, and support our communities to receive access to the care that they need.**

With gratitude,  
Teresa Stewart

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<sup>1</sup> Women’s Foundation of Oregon, “Count Her In” Report, Reproductive Health Access Brief (2016). Accessed March 20, 2023 at: [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63979aec034a82694633cf64/t/63c6ebe124141254505ed2c7/1673980899551/Womens\\_Foundation\\_Gaps\\_in\\_Reproductive\\_Health\\_Access\\_brief.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/63979aec034a82694633cf64/t/63c6ebe124141254505ed2c7/1673980899551/Womens_Foundation_Gaps_in_Reproductive_Health_Access_brief.pdf)