

Submitter: Jens Berli

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

My name is Jens Berli and I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, which will help create a future in which every person in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own body and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

I have practiced as a surgeon providing gender affirming care here in Oregon since 2016 and have witnessed the tremendous impact these services have on the individuals fortunate enough to access safe care here in Oregon. This bill helps protecting providers and health center's ability to provide this important health care service. It prevents interference with care provision of deeply personal care and ensures confidentiality and privacy of the providers. It further allows to expand access to care. Facial feminization surgery has been offered to very select few OHP patients thus far and the importance for personal safety and decreasing risk of harassment is profound as the face is what we carry out into the world.

This bill ensures individuals fundamental right for seeking gender affirming care in our state. Washington state enacted very similar legislation to this bill in 2021, and there has been very little fiscal impact to the state. Like any other form of life-saving health care, gender-affirming care should be accessible.