

Submitter: Carolyn Richards

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

RE: Support Reproductive Health and Access Care Act, HB 2002
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
03/20/2023

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

My name is Carolyn and I live in Portland. I am writing to testify in strong support for HB 2002, which: modifies provisions relating to reproductive health rights; modifies provisions relating to access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming treatment; modifies provisions relating to protections for providers of and individuals receiving reproductive and gender-affirming health care services; creates crime of interfering with a health care facility; creates right of action for person or health care provider aggrieved by interference with health care facility; and repeal criminal provisions relating to concealing birth, to help ensure all Oregonians can access life-saving care and bodily autonomy.

In Oregon, I believe that everyone should have the freedom to make their own health care decisions and access the care they need to survive and thrive. For years, our state has led the nation in protecting and expanding access to the full spectrum of sexual, reproductive, and gender affirming care. Despite our progress, significant barriers to the full spectrum of care still exist in our state for many communities including: low-income Oregonians, those living outside of the I-5 corridor, women, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, and people with disabilities.

With the US Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade, we lost legal protections for abortion. As states across the nation ramp up assaults on our lives and freedom, we must keep showing up to protect our rights. With HB 2002, Oregon can be a leader — by protecting and expanding access to reproductive and transgender health care.

I have known from a young age that I haven't wanted children, and while I left space for the unknown future, that truth has remained with me over the decades. It is vital to me that I have access to abortion and my rights are protected. HB 2002 further supports those rights for myself and for all my fellow Oregonians.

Please support HB 2002 and pass it out of committee.

Thank you,
Carolyn
she/her