

Date: March 20 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
From: Julie Mack, Health Teacher Portland Metro Area
RE: Support HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie Mack and I have been a health teacher in the Portland metro area for 15 years. I am writing to express my **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.

As a teenager, I grew up in a state that did not offer comprehensive sexuality education, we relied on local clinics and providers to help navigate the very complicated transition years into adulthood. Even as an adult, I relied on free clinics and Planned Parenthood as my primary health caregiver. These experiences led me to become a health teacher in Oregon, a state that values reproductive care and body autonomy for all people. Teenagers still need protected, safe, and judgment-free reproductive services that support their personal decisions around gender-affirming care and sexual health services.

Currently, I work directly with students receiving gender-affirming care that has saved their lives and allowed them to engage in academics and work towards a healthy future. Our high school has a school-based health clinic on campus that provides students with medically-factual health care from supportive professionals. This safe space affords students the opportunity to have autonomy and agency over their own bodies. Keeping reproductive services away from our youth and vulnerable communities will only force people into unsafe situations and put their health and potentially life in jeopardy.

HB 2002 will ensure that all Oregonians can access health care that they need and best for their own body. This bill will support our most vulnerable youth and community members to access care that gives them a choice on how to live their best life and thrive. Safe, confidential reproductive and gender affirming care is health care.

This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julie Mack