



Date: March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Oregon Health Equity Alliance

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Esther Kim and I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance to express **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.

OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices as part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of ten regional health equity coalitions across Oregon.

OHEA believes it is crucial that we protect and expand access to reproductive health and access to care, which includes fundamental reproductive and gender affirming care across existing financial, geographic, educational, and patient and provider protection gaps. We know there is a broader effort across the country to undermine reproductive rights and limit access to healthcare services for those who need it most. These disparities disproportionately impact communities of color, working class and poor people, LGBTQIA+ people, disabled people, and people living in rural and remote parts of the state.

Fortunately, Oregon has a long history of leading the way on reproductive rights and gender affirming care. From codifying abortion rights into state law to expanding gender-affirming care, our state has shown that we prioritize equity and access for all. House Bill 2002 builds on this legacy by ensuring that everyone in Oregon has access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care services, including contraception, abortion, and prenatal care, regardless of their income or insurance status. This bill includes critical provisions to protect providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming and reproductive healthcare in Oregon. HB 2002 seeks to enhance access to care in medically underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program and expand services at existing health centers at public institutions to address reproductive healthcare deserts.

In closing, I urge you to support House Bill 2002 and protect the rights and health care of all Oregonians. As more states ignore, neglect, and abandon their residents - effectively denying them life-saving medical care - we must stand firm in our commitment to health equity, reproductive justice and access to care for all. This is why I urge you to vote yes on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Esther Kim
they/them
Co-Director, Oregon Health Equity Alliance