



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

March 20th, 2023

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2002 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. My name is Alberto Gallegos and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Oregon. SEIU Oregon is composed of SEIU Local 503 and SEIU Local 49, which together represent over 87,000 people. Local 49 represents private sector janitors, property service workers, light manufacturing, and healthcare workers; while Local 503 represents homecare workers, private nonprofit workers, in-home childcare providers, nursing home workers, and state and local government employees.

SEIU Oregon strongly believes that access to quality, affordable, equitable health care is a basic human right; that includes access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services. Unfortunately, our healthcare system does not work for many Oregonians, including: women, people of color, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, immigrants, and working families. This situation has only been exacerbated by the Dobbs decision which has worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. Criminalizing access to health care will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families, like our members, are most at risk for further economic and health consequences.

HB 2002 will ensure a more just and equitable health care system that can support us all by:

- Protecting Providers and Health Centers:
 - Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon
 - Preventing interference with health care centers and protecting providers from harassment and abuse
 - Ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of providers is protected
- Expanding Access to Care:
 - Closing gaps in: insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities

- Enhancing access to care in medically-underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program
- Addressing reproductive health care deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions
- Ensuring Fundamental Rights:
 - Protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state
 - Codifying the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care
 - Preventing individuals from being criminalized for any pregnancy outcome

SEIU Oregon is committed to ensuring people in Oregon have access to safe reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health services. **We ask that this committee join us in that commitment by voting in support of HB 2002.**

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU, Oregon State Council