

Date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Craig Sills (He/Him)

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Craig Sills, and 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.

I have had the opportunity to live in eight different countries, across three continents. Additionally, I have worked for lengthy periods of time in over twenty additional countries. I have experienced numerous religious-based cultures, some that were dictatorships, and many more that were democracies. I have witnessed firsthand the inhumane horror of outlawing and persecution of abortion and the LGBTQ+ community. Alternatively, I have witnessed the total commonplace acceptance of abortion and respect for bodily autonomy and gender fluidity. I can confidently state that:

**Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care is a Basic Human Right!**

Patients, providers, and health centers must be protected from bullying, harassment, and abuse. We need to guarantee that confidentiality and privacy is continued for providers and patients.

Additionally, I support this bill because it enhances access to care in medically underserved regions. For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. HB2002 addresses the reproductive health care deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions and closes the gaps in insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care, and nobody should be denied gender affirming care. This bill ensures fundamental rights by protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights are under attack nationwide, YOU have the opportunity to ensure Oregon continues to stand as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and reproductive health care access.

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

Sincerely,  
Craig Sills