

Date: March 18, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Sierra Burton (and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon)

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Sierra Burton, I am a former Planned Parenthood Legislative and Electoral Fellowship member and I am writing to express support for House Bill 2002. House Bill 2002: Reproductive Health and Access to Care 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.

It is a fact that after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, states across the nation have taken steps to restrict access to abortions and criminalize it in some cases. Today, abortion care has become a public health crisis following the decision made in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Individuals that are born with the sexual reproduction organ of a uterus, should be granted the right of bodily autonomy to decide what is best for themselves regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, or where they live.

As a 21 year-old Black, genderqueer, student that has a uterus of my own, I believe life would quickly become a nightmare if I accidentally got pregnant and was forced to keep the fetus. It is essential that abortion providers and health centers are protected, access to care is expanded, and that my fundamental rights are ensured by HB 2002 because I do not want to live in fear of having a child at a time when I am not emotionally, financially, or socially equipped yet to give that child a good life. Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right, and Washington state already enacted a very similar legislation to this bill in 2021, which caused little fiscal impact to the state budget.

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

Sincerely,  
Sierra Burton