



March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
From: Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Re: Support for HB 2002

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

My name is Ames Kessler-Templin and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, on behalf of Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon (PHFO).

PHFO is a statewide anti-poverty advocacy organization with a small staff of under 15 members. We understand that leadership comes from those with lived experience and that hunger and poverty do not exist on their own, but rather a result of overlapping systems of oppression that create layers of privilege and inequity. Our values and work are centered in creating systemic changes to end hunger. At PHFO, we do not seek to just feed our neighbors, we seek our shared liberation from systems of oppression and to address the root causes of hunger. One of those causes is accessing a full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Nobody should be denied gender affirming care. In 2023 alone, more than 300 bills attacking LGBTQ+ people have been introduced to state legislatures across the country. As transgender rights in particular are under attack nationwide, Oregon has an opportunity to continue standing as a leader for LGBTQ+ rights and health care access.

PHFO knows that access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health care, just like accessing food, is a basic human right. This is why we urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ames Kessler-Templin
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon