

Submitter: Kara C

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee:

I am a pediatric endocrinologist in Oregon who specializes in providing gender affirming care for youth. In my line of work, I have the privilege every day of witnessing the positive effects of youth having continued access to this care. I get to see them thrive in school, accept academic and athletic scholarships, and grow in their relationships with their families and friends. The care provided is holistic, individualized, guided by evidence-based standards of care, and involves the parent or legal guardian.

HB2002 does not change the way gender affirming care for youth is provided in the state of Oregon, nor does it argue the merits of this care; that issue has already been decided through existing legal precedent and state policies. The bill also does not change the fact that youth under the age of medical consent cannot access treatment without the consent of their parents or legal guardians, or the best practice of all Oregon-based programs to involve parents and guardians for youth over 15.

What HB2002 would do is put protections in place for youth and their families seeking this care, and the behavioral health and medical providers delivering the care.

To allow gender diverse youth and their families to continue to receive the medically-necessary, life-saving care they deserve in a safe space with experienced providers, I urge you to support HB2002.