

TESTIMONY

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

My name is Brittney Montag, I use she/her pronouns, and I am here to express **support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care** because access to the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care is a basic human right.

While living in Australia in 2021 I had two abortions. Today I am going to focus on how aspects of this proposed bill directly impacted my first experience accessing abortion services.

Despite the initial shock of my first positive pregnancy test, I was certain the moment I saw the result, I was going to have an abortion.

I needed the clinic to explain to me the difference between a medication and surgical abortion because this was never part of my sex education. I was taught how to avoid getting pregnant, but not what to do if those tools fail. I decided on a surgical abortion because it seemed the quickest. Work was busy, and I felt anxious to ask my manager whether I could take more than a day off for the procedure. I knew I needed the time to recover, but the conversation was too hard to have without a supportive workplace culture of recognizing abortion as healthcare.

The biggest shock came when I was told the procedure cost \$500 out of pocket. Luckily I had some savings to cover the cost but the major unexpected expense is a challenging barrier and could greatly impact a person's ability to get the timely care they need, or force them to make difficult decisions about what bills to pay that month.

Despite feeling nervous the day of my abortion, I found solace in the fact that I lived in a place that prioritizes privacy and safety by mandating Safe Access Zones, meaning anti-abortion protesters cannot assemble within 500 feet of any abortion providing clinic. Arriving at my appointment free of harassment allowed me to focus on making the right decision for my body, a decision I have never regretted.

Experiencing an unwanted pregnancy is challenging enough, without additional barriers such as cost and safety which is why I'm here to advocate for all Oregonians, in addition to those who are forced to travel interstate due to the continuous attack on reproductive health across the United States. Bodily autonomy is a basic human right and Oregon should acknowledge that right to the fullest.

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