

Submitter: Alexandra Levin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Alexandra Levin, OHSU medical student

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Alexandra Levin, MPH and I am writing to express 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.

The Dobbs decision worsened the public health crisis around abortion care. The race to criminalize access to health care will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences and now, the threat of criminalization.

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.

I am an OHSU medical student and I have spent the entirety of my fourth year learning and practicing medicine in Klamath Falls. My patients have to travel a minimum of 75 miles to access abortion care. We routinely serve patients from communities 100+ miles away. It is vital that patients living in rural parts of our state continue to have access to abortion and gender affirming care. This is a matter of safety and prioritizes bodily autonomy. My hope is that we can continue to serve as a safe place for patients from all over the west.

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

Sincerely,

Alexandra Levin, MPH

OHSU Medical Student