

Submitter: AJ Waters

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

I am writing in strong support of this bill.

I am proud to live in Oregon a state that is working hard to grapple with injustice and work towards greater equality for all people. This bill would continue this work by allowing adults more freedom in their own healthcare decisions. As a trans man this bill will both protect my access to the gender affirming health care that has saved (and is saving) my life as well as my access to abortion should I ever need one. I love being able to tell my friends in other parts of the country that I live in a state where trans people can get healthcare including hormone therapy and surgery. These interventions have bettered my life to a degree I did not think was possible and I wish all people could experience the joy that I do in getting to be my truest self thanks primarily to testosterone.

I also want to advocate for the trans teens out there. Trans teens deserve the same access to care that us adults receive. I personally knew I was trans at 4 years old, but was unable to fully understand that or know there was a path out there for me until I was educated about it as an adult. I imagine I would have been a much happier and less depressed young person had the education and care been available for me in a time when it felt like I couldn't keep going. Somehow I persevered through and I'm thankful to have made it to a time and place where transition is possible for so many of us.

The claims of detransition that detractors like to share are vastly overblown. Most studies show that those who detransition do so because of pressure from unfirming family members, not due to unhappiness with their transition. The regret rate for trans related interventions is vastly lower than the rates for many other common health procedures, and the joy is much much higher.

Trans joy is to be shared including with the teens who are going through so much. They deserve easy access to life saving care and we should be a state that other states look to for what a safe state for trans youth can be. Please support this bill!