

Date: March 20, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Anna Rozzi

RE: Support HB 2002

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

Hello, my name is Anna Rozzi, I use she/her pronouns, and I am here today as a teacher, a friend, a wife, a parent, a future medical student, starting this August at OHSU, and as an abortion patient. Today I am testifying to express my deepest **support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care**. This bill will help to create a future in which everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies, and access a full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming care.

My support of this bill comes from years of connection and shared stories with my students, my friends and family, my lived experience, and my dream to be a doctor. My husband and I were blessed with the birth of our son in January of 2021, and despite the many horrors the pandemic brought to so many, our son provided us with a joyous refuge - and he continues to fill our hearts to this day. When we decided we wanted to have a second child, we were filled with excitement and shared reflections of the loving relationships my husband and I share with our own siblings. And then, just two months ago, at nearly 12 weeks pregnant - I started to miscarry. The pregnancy had been progressing, but we both understood the complexity of development and that things can happen far out of our control. I contracted at home through the night for more than 10 hours, and when the process stalled and the mass had not yet been passed, I knew I was going to need help. I saw my doctor the next morning where they kindly and accurately explained to me all of my options and associated outcomes, risks and benefits. I was so impressed by the care and support I received. My abortion was fast and painless, and in the midst of the procedure I thought about the providers in the room, their expert skill, their compassion, and the gift I had by being their patient - and I thought of all the people who don't have access to the care I received. I said out loud 'Thank God I live in Oregon.' While I had really wanted this pregnancy and was heartbroken at its loss, I am so grateful for and inspired by my abortion experience. The care I received was high-quality, evidence-based, inclusive, and compassionate. I felt safe. I felt cared for. I felt respected. But I know my experience is not everyone's experience. Access to sexual and reproductive health care is a basic human right, and this is why we must expand access to care in Oregon.

As a soon-to-be medical student, I very intentionally chose Oregon for my training. I knew that as a medical student in Oregon, I would receive training that included comprehensive reproductive and gender affirming care - services that are vitally important for the safety and survival of all people. But high-quality healthcare must be paired with high accessibility to be impactful. And healthcare providers must be protected for doing what they have been trained to do, for what they took oaths to do: to protect the autonomy and dignity of their patients. I want to serve my future patients under that standard of care, regardless of which state I practice in.

The race to criminalize access to health care and healthcare workers will only deepen health inequities and create generational consequences. Without further protections, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people, and low-income families are most at risk for further economic and health consequences, and now, live with the threat of criminalization.

It is a nightmare realized when we need provisions to protect people for accessing and providing the care I so desperately needed. I am forever grateful that with HB 2002 there are active steps being made to safeguard providers and health care centers by preventing interference, protecting providers from harassment and abuse, and ensuring that the confidentiality and privacy of both patients and providers are protected.

We bring our whole selves to the work we do, and as a future doctor I will be bringing my whole self to my patients. My experiences and learning will impact my work as I train to be the best doctor I can be, and I am inspired by the incredible providers I was treated by - and I am humbled by the opportunity to learn from them. I know how it feels to be on the receiving end of trauma-informed care from a doctor who is safe, protected, and able to provide comprehensive care. As a past patient and future provider, I urge you to vote yes on HB 2002 so that I am not one of the lucky few, but a member of a protected collective charting the course to a safer, more inclusive and more accessible healthcare future. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Anna Rozzi
Portland, Oregon