

Submitter: Danielle Dawes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Date: March 21st, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Danielle Dawes Cox

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Danielle 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.

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. Washington state enacted very similar legislation to this bill in 2021, and there has been very little fiscal impact to the state. Like any other form of life-saving health care, gender-affirming care should be accessible.

For too many Oregonians, reproductive and gender affirming care are still out-of-reach because of geography, income, or insurance coverage. Eighteen states currently have abortion bans or serious restrictions in effect, including our neighbor Idaho. This decreased access exacerbates existing reproductive health care deserts, especially in Eastern Oregon, as our state experiences a surge in out-of-state patients.

The passage of this bill is important to me because I want to live in a state where healthcare is accessible regardless of your zip code. Where people are empowered to make decisions about their bodies for themselves. HB 2002 equitably allocates resources to serve those in more rural communities often neglected.

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

Sincerely,

Danielle Dawes Cox