

Submitter: Joni Howell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: Ms. Joni Howell

RE: Support HB 2002

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

My name is Joni Howell, a Portland local and proud trans woman. I am strongly in support of House Bill 2002. Everyone deserves bodily autonomy, which includes access to reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming healthcare. House Bill 2002 will help strengthen each of those here in the state of Oregon.

As a trans person who has received and continues to receive gender affirming care, I know the tremendous benefit it can provide to one's mental, emotional, and physical health. Creating further access to those who are most vulnerable is imperative and life-saving. I am able to write to you today, comfortable with who I am and looking forward to the future because of the care I have been so fortunate to access.

Healthcare is a human right, not a privilege, a right. This includes things such as improved insurance coverage for gender affirming care, better and continued access to contraception, and greater reproductive healthcare services. Oregon must act to ensure the rights of all, by ethically protecting the liberties of diverse individuals and their needs. This is why I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joni Howell