

Submitter: Joan Sage

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

March 22, 2023

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and other members of this House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care:

I am Dr. Joan Sage, a graduate of Princeton University; and of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School then did my residency at Doernbecher Children's Hospital at OHSU. I practiced in Oregon and Southwest Washington over 30 years doing general pediatrics with special interest in Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics.

I have read House Bill 2002 and find it harmful to children.

The Bill is harmful in its use of the term "individual," when it declares that "every individual has a fundamental right to make decisions about the individual's reproductive health ...". Then it goes on to refer to children of ANY age being included as individuals receiving Reproductive-related medications and surgeries.

What is overlooked is that decision-making capabilities vary depending on age and cognitive development. Children can certainly give assent to some concrete decisions, but decisions with abstract implications for their health or their future should not be left to them without their parents' or guardians' involvement.

The Bill also turns the tables of responsibility within the family upside down. Psychologically a child grows up needing the security of parents who they can depend on to look out for their general well-being. Imagine how confusing it becomes for the child to now be in the role of authority, not only keeping important secrets from, but needing be the signers for parents to get information that should have already been accessible to them.

The Bill is harmful in its impact on excellent comprehensive health care for the child. Well over 85% of what's needed to make a diagnosis is in the comprehensive history we are trained to take. A growing child's body is changing all the time and sometimes

diseases develop which it can be helpful for family history, birth history and early illnesses history to be known. A child going for Reproductive Health Services of any sort is not likely to know family details or their own health history.

As a pediatrician, I appeal to you to vote "NO" on HB2002. This Bill is extreme and dangerous for the healthcare of children, especially with leaving the "reproductive healthcare" services and all that encompasses being available to children of ANY age without parental or guardian involvement. Again, please vote "NO".

On behalf of children and families, thank you for your "NO" vote.
Dr. Joan Sage, MD