

Submitter: Raymond Simon II

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

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

My name is Raymond A. Simon II, MD, and I am writing to express my support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, which will help create a future in which every person in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own body and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

I have been in practice here in Oregon since 2019. I have worked in and with Oregonians who have issues with mental health and substance use disorder in particular. It has been a boon to be in a state where I can coordinate with my colleagues on appropriate and evidence-based care for not only transgender people, but people in general regardless of sexual orientation or gender. What has been seen around the greater United States concerns me. There seems to be a concerted effort to either eliminate or in some cases, criminalize the, again, appropriate and evidence-based medical treatment for gender affirming care as well as for reproductive health and care. The further this goes, it has been seen that physicians and care providers have to hesitate when balancing the risk of giving appropriate care vs. the possibility of legal ramifications, in some cases imprisonment. Out of both professional and personal concern for the health and safety of my patients and the greater community, I want to express my support for this bill. It will help to ensure that these groups of people are not put at an even higher risk than they already are. Please consider this in your deliberation today. I urge your yes vote on HB 2002. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ray Simon, MD