



March 22, 2023

To: House Committee on Health Care

From: Emerson Hamlin, Political Organizer, Oregon Nurses Association

Re: Support for HB 2002

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin, and members of the committee,

My name is Emerson Hamlin, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA). ONA is a nurses union and professional association representing over 15,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health, and county health departments across Oregon. Our members are committed to ensuring that all patients have affordable access to the vital reproductive health care services that improve outcomes in our communities. We are proud to support HB 2002.

Firstly, our members applaud the language in this bill that establishes individual decisions around reproductive healthcare as a fundamental right. Doing so honors personal choice and bodily autonomy, and recognizes that each person is an expert on their body and circumstances.

Secondly, this bill provides protections for reproductive health care and gender affirming care providers, including ONA members. These protections are critical: in the data collected by the National Abortion Federation, abortion providers reported significant increases in the violence and disruption that they face, including incidents of stalking and assault and battery of reproductive health care providers, patients, and volunteers.<sup>1</sup> Providers working at clinics also reported experiencing an increasing number of blockades, suspicious packages, and clinic invasions. Our nurses work hard to serve their patients to the best of their ability, but it is not possible for any provider to give patients the best possible care when they are facing attacks and disruptions.

HB 2002 protects our members and other providers by giving them access to the Address Confidentiality program, making interfering with a health care facility a Class A misdemeanor, and establishing that malpractice insurance and licensing boards cannot take adverse action solely based on their provision of reproductive health care or gender affirming care. HB 2002 ensures that our members will have safe workplaces and increases access to care across our state. ONA urges a yes vote.

Sincerely,

Emerson Hamlin

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<sup>1</sup> National Abortion Federation . (2022). *2021 Violence & Disruption Statistics*. National Abortion Federation. <https://prochoice.org/our-work/provider-security/>