

Submitter: Glenna Hayes

On Behalf Of: Myself

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Dear Chair Nosse and committee members. At this time I am writing in support of HB2002 as myself. I am a non-binary 34 year old who has lived in Oregon for 12 years. I did not come out as non-binary until I was 30. I always knew there was something about being born female I did not connect with. I was called a tom-boy, sporty, butch, teased, whatever the slurs you can think of I was called them. This disconnect from my gender identity and having the ability to fully express who I am lead to years of addiction issues, abusive relationships, risky behavior and a death wish. I wanted to die and thought I would by the time I was 32. I even attempted suicide twice before the age of 14. The world didn't feel welcoming to me, I felt I didn't know myself and never felt at home anywhere, especially in my own body. I remember having these feelings since I was a child in 2nd grade. I think of all the people who feel this way and are struggling to find who there are. Gender affirming care is so important to youth and everyone. Youth deserve the supports to explore their gender identity. I for one would rather folks transition, explore, de-transition than kill themselves. One of my best friends killed themselves at 23 because they wanted to transition into a woman but the pain and lack of gender affirming care pushed them to feel isolated and lost. The stigmas and biases people have around gender affirming care harm us ALL and we need to work toward embracing all people in our communities.