

Submitter: Babs Vanelli

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

My name is Babs Vanelli. I am 74 and have lived in Portland, Oregon my entire life. I am writing in support of HB 2002.

Thank you, Chair Nosse, and Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, for the opportunity to submit this.

I signed up for public testimony virtually on 3/20/22 but my name did not come up until the last 2 mins. of the 5 hour session so time ran out and I was unable to speak. I felt compassion for all who testified, even those who opposed the Bill. I wished that the two issues: Reproductive Care and Gender Affirming Care had been 2 separate Bills. That being said, I am hopeful HB 2002 will move forward in the Legislature.

I was 24 when Roe v. Wade was passed and my generation of women never imagined we would be fighting the same fight 50 years later. I am advocating now for the generations behind me. There was a march and rally in Portland May 2022. Women, men, families, members of the LBGTQ Community, all races and all ages spanning 8 generations participated. My favorite was a woman in a wheelchair holding a sign that said "I cannot BELIEVE I am protesting "this" AGAIN!! Her language was colorful; she was 80 years old.

I believe everyone has the right to make choices about their health care that they believe is in their best interest; that includes Reproductive Care and Gender Affirming Care. Health Care Providers and the places they work need to be free of fear as they perform medical services.

I do not need to recount the horrific stories we are hearing from around the county. I believe our energy should focus on demonstrating that Oregonians respect and value the decisions of others even when our choices differ.

I urge you to follow your heart and vote YES on HB 2002.  
Thank you!

