

March 20, 2023

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

My name is Cassie Purdy and I am here today on behalf of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon.

PPAO is the political voice for Planned Parenthood's two affiliates, PPCW and PPSO. As an organization dedicated to the advancement of health equity, we are thrilled to speak in support of HB 2002 today.

The Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* was a devastating rollback of nearly half a century of protecting reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. But the reality is: for many the constitutional right to abortion was never enough. Rights are only afforded to those who can access them and for too long, Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrants, rural folks, low-income Oregonians, LGBTQIA+ people, particularly those who are trans and non-binary have lacked the access they truly need to assert their right to determine their own lives and access the full spectrum of reproductive health care.

The goal of the anti-abortion movement was never to simply overturn the constitutional right to abortion. This has always been about who has power over us, who has the authority to make decisions for us, and who can control what the future holds for us.

Across the nation, we're seeing an unprecedented number of anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-abortion laws being introduced and passed simultaneously. Fourteen states have now banned or severely restricted abortion, and more than 400 bills to restrict the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, ban, or criminalize gender affirming care were introduced this year alone. States are also moving to criminalize healthcare providers and those



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seeking abortion - even going so far as to propose the death penalty for those who attempt to exercise this fundamental right to determine whether and when they become a parent.

These simultaneous attacks are no coincidence. The efforts to ban abortion and gender affirming care are two sides of the same coin - they are both attempts to deny us our freedom and ability to determine our own lives.

But we are here today to say: not here, not in our state. Oregonians overwhelmingly support the rights of individuals to make their own personal healthcare decisions, to determine their own paths in life, and to become the fullest, truest versions of themselves.

Oregon has led the nation in passing groundbreaking policies, such as the Reproductive Health Equity Act, Cover All Kids, and Cover All People. We've taken important steps to remove barriers to care, because access to health care should never be based on income, insurance, immigration status, zip code, or gender identity and sexual orientation.

It's time for Oregon to show up again. We applaud the leadership of the legislature and Attorney General for establishing the Reproductive Health and Access to Care work group last summer.

In this work group, Community and advocacy organizations, providers, clinic administrators, and issue experts identified barriers for patients seeking care, the challenges healthcare providers and facilities face delivering care, and the potential legal issues patients and providers may face in this ever changing legal landscape since the Dobbs decision.



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HB 2002 is a direct result of the efforts of this work group and shows Oregonians: we're listening. It moves Oregon forward in our work to protect, strengthen, and expand equitable access to reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

With HB 2002, we will protect providers of reproductive health and gender affirming care so that no clinician has to hesitate to provide the lifesaving care their patients need.

We will continue to expand access to care in rural communities with a pilot mobile health clinic, and make public college and university campuses a critical access point for emergency contraception and medication abortion - so that no student has to disrupt their studies or their life path to get the care they need.

PPAO is grateful for the incredible work that went into this law, and to our elected officials and advocates who recognized the inseparable link between reproductive freedom and LGBTQ+ rights, that neither can progress or be adequately defended without the other.

We would also like to add some clarifications around what the bill will accomplish. HB 2002 does not change the age of consent for abortion care or gender affirming care, nor does it address parental notification requirements. Under the rights afforded to us by *Roe v Wade*, individuals in Oregon of any age could consent to an abortion. This bill does not change that.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue, and we urge the committee's support for HB 2002