



March 20th, 2023

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

My name is Liz Marquez and I am writing on behalf of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union to express our support for House Bill 2002, Reproductive Health and Access to Care. At PCUN, we work to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families to improve their working conditions through community building, organizing, and policy advocacy.

We are in support of HB 2002 because we believe every Oregonian should have the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and have access to the full range of reproductive and gender affirming care. Our state has been a leader in protecting and expanding access, however, there are still significant barriers to the full spectrum of care for low-income Oregonians, those living outside of the I-5 corridor, women, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, Black, Indigenous and people of color, immigrants and people with disabilities.

Farmworkers are amongst communities that still face barriers to access reproductive health care as they are some of the lowest paid workers in our state¹, and live and work in rural regions where access to reproductive healthcare services are more limited. Additionally, the dangerous nature of farmworkers working conditions may also negatively impact their reproductive health as farmworkers are often exposed to pesticides. Studies have found that exposure to pesticides may have an effect on reproductive outcomes with increased risks such as spontaneous abortion, neural tube and other birth defects². Access to reproductive healthcare is especially critical for farmworkers who have been exposed to pesticides and want to know what their options are; how this will affect their ability to start a family, potential risks and how this will affect birthing outcomes if they are already pregnant. Everyone deserves the right to choose when and whether to start a family, the right to bodily autonomy and access to care when they make their own decision.

HB 2002 centers those who face the most barriers to accessing care in policy-making and resourcing. The recommendations from Speaker Rayfield's Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group were developed in lockstep with impacted communities, providers, and organizations working on the ground to meet this moment. These recommendations include but are not limited to:

- **Protecting Providers and Health Centers:**
 - Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/farming-fishing-and-forestry/agricultural-workers.htm#tab-5>

²

<https://www.farmworkerjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Reproductive-Health-Effects-of-Pesticide-Exposure.pdf>

- gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon
- Preventing interference with health care centers and protecting providers from harassment and abuse
- Ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of providers is protected
- **Expanding Access to Care:**
 - Closing gaps in: insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities
 - Enhancing access to care in medically-underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program
 - Addressing reproductive health care deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions
- **Ensuring Fundamental Rights:**
 - Protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state
 - Codifying the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care
 - Preventing individuals from being criminalized for any pregnancy outcome

Access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health is a basic human right. Everyone deserves access to life-saving medical care. Our state can continue to be a leader by building a future in which everyone in Oregon has the ability to make decisions about their own bodies and access the full range of reproductive, sexual, and gender affirming health care.

PCUN urges you to vote YES on HB 2002. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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