

Submitter: Eric Fishman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SJR33

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE  
IN SUPPORT OF SJR 33

Good afternoon Chair Lieber (Lee-ber), Vice Chair Knopp (Ka-Nope) and members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Eric Friedenwald-Fishman, I am the CEO of Metropolitan Group. We are an international strategic and creative services firm headquartered in Oregon and I am here today to express my support for Senate Joint Resolution 33.

I deeply believe that all people deserve to live with dignity, freedom and equal protections. Over the last 35 years, I have joined with thousands of other Oregonians as an advocate in the legislature and at the ballot to ensure that Oregonians are protected against discrimination. I am proud to live and to headquarter our company in a state that recognizes this fundamental value.

Protecting these values matters. It matters to me as a father and community member when I see the impact that access to healthcare, the right to marry, and the right to live without discrimination has on friends and loved ones. It matters to me and to every Oregon headquartered business as we work to recruit and retain our most important asset - innovative people. Our firm recruits nationally and the fact that we are in a state that has protected freedom and access to basic rights is important to candidates for jobs in Oregon. These values matter to Oregon's economy.

And the threat to these values is not abstract. Across the country we have seen numerous laws enacted that codify discrimination and attack our fundamental rights and freedoms including access to essential healthcare and the right to marry who we love.

SJR 33 will enshrine and protect our core values in the Oregon constitution and ensure that Oregonians have the freedom to make our own decisions about who we marry and the right to access the essential care we need including family planning, contraceptives, and abortion.

Oregonians overwhelmingly support our fundamental freedom from discrimination. And deserve to have our voices heard by voting on these protections if referred to the ballot.

This is why I urge you to pass SJR 33.

Thank you for your time.

Eric Friedenwald-Fishman  
CEO Metropolitan Group