

Submitter: William Herz  
On Behalf Of: Self  
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules  
Measure: SJR33

I am a fourth generation Oregonian. I grew up in SE Portland, graduated from David Douglas High School, and graduated from Stanford University. I completed my MD at OHSU in 1974, did a 1 year rotating family practice internship in Bakersfield, then returned to OHSU completing my residency in psychiatry in 1982. In my residency, I developed an interest in rural psychiatry. After completing residency, I moved Bend. I have 40 years experience working in Community Psychiatry in rural and remote counties of Central and SE Oregon. Since residency, I've been a member of the OMA, Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Assn., and the American Psychiatric Assn. The APA has been a world leader in affirming LGBTQ people per se are not mentally ill and also in defending their rights to live free of discrimination and oppression. Since the 1980s I've also had the privilege to draw on the knowledge of the members of American Assn. of Community Psychiatrists, and the AGLP, Association of Gay & Lesbian Psychiatrists. Both are affiliates of the APA. AACP is the major influencer in determining standards of community mental health care for all the diverse groups we see (which are as diverse in Central Oregon as anywhere in the state). Many of our AGLP members are responsible for development of standards of mental health treatment and access to care for LGBTQ patients in the U.S. & worldwide.

There's not space for me to explain all of the problems we have faced delivering care for time extending from the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s to the present. But thanks to the tolerance for diversity that we do have in Oregon progress has been made. One of my favorite places to work has been the community mental health program run by BestCare treatment services in Jefferson County. It has one of the most diverse patient groups and staff that I know of in the state. I am also proud that we have gone from desperately trying to find basic medical care for our trans. Gender patients 15 years ago to a clinic for transgender individuals participate in delivering care. It is the one consultation job, I've kept in retirement.

Every aspect of the rights preserved in SJR 33 is essential our patient population. We do not directly deal with the physical aspects of gynecological care, but we recognized the importance of access to all gynecological care to our patients. (And I should add I always had nearly immediate access to consultation with my brother now a retired gynecologist and pathologist, who is also strongly in favor of SJR 33.)

But I do need to share personal issues my husband and I are going through. My brother and I were extremely fortunate to have parents who were unconditionally loving of their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. My parents were married for over 75 years. They always had each other to rely on as next of kin, no

matter what medical or important issue came up. My brother & his wife have been married for 52 years. I met my husband Grant in 1999. We weren't able to get married until 2016. I guarantee no force in the universe would have kept my 94-year-old mother from attending our wedding with 40 other family and friends at Waldo Lake. It was 17 years before my spouse and I were allowed to be legal next of kin with all the 1000 or so privileges that a marriage license provides. We are now being advised we need to find a lawyer to revise our will so that the its provisions, our powers of attorney for finances and healthcare, and advance directives will stand if the supreme court overturns it's previous ruling protecting our right to mary and our marriage contract is voided.

We lost my mother at the age of 97 in 2019 and my father passed away last June at the age of 100. We miss them terribly, but I have to admit I am relieved that they did not live to see the situation that we face now.

William Herz, MD