

Proposing amendment to Oregon Constitution relating to an enumeration of equal rights.

I oppose this proposal because I believe in equal rights – for *all*, and that includes citizens of Oregon not yet born, i.e., those in the womb. Any bill that purports to deny essential rights to these vulnerable citizens, Oregon's future, is a bad bill and certainly should not be enshrined in the state's Constitution. Although these people cannot themselves vote (yet) or demonstrate their contributions to the state's economy (yet), they are very much in process (as we all are); they are not cabbages, they are not bunnies. They are people; they are presently what every one of the rest of us were at one time. To say some portion of the state's citizens have a "right" to take away another portion of the state's citizens' right to live is to say this is a dysfunctional state that is proposing to destroy its own future. This is as wrong as it is insane.

And what is the rush to codify transgender "therapy" when we are still a generation or more away from drawing sound conclusions on the health and safety (or the detriments and perils) of these so-called treatments? How has Oregon determined that it's okay to charge ahead when countries such as Sweden and UK and numerous studies published by medical and pediatric associations are urging Caution! Caution! Caution! on these matters? Is this responsible government?

"Rights" is a term popularly used that covers a range of meanings: desires, demands, public approbation, legal guarantees, moral imperatives, etc. The term has been grossly diluted by overuse. Not everything called a right is a right, and not everyone claiming a right has a right. Rights that aren't grounded in something firmer, more enduring than current trends are subject to quick and easy alteration or erasure with the next change of governance. Rights that run contrary to nature are doomed to disappear because they're not tethered to reality. A constitution that promulgates such "rights" is a constitution doomed to irrelevance. Does this proposal really promote what's best for Oregon? Really?