



Senate Committee on Health Care  
Senate Bill 844  
March 20, 2025  
Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE  
Director, Oregon Catholic Conference

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Member of the Committee,

The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon believes that, in the words of Archbishop Alexander Sample, “life – every life – is a gift.” The Archdiocese holds that Oregon should be a sanctuary where every human being is deeply valued and protected from inside the womb until natural death. We believe in protecting the inherent dignity of every human person, born and unborn. We are opposed to abortions and gender-affirming care as neither aligns with our moral vision of the dignity of the human person. Our belief in protecting every human's inherent dignity includes the ability to hold the healthcare industry and bad actors accountable when complaints of abuse or malpractice arise.

Senate Bill 844 (SB 844) provides a shield for abusers and bad actors to harm vulnerable Oregonians. Specifically, Sections 6(3) and Section (8)5 prohibit the disclosure of information by a health professional regulatory board to another entity if the information relates to “the provision of or referral for reproductive or gender-affirming health care services.”

Suppose a complaint against a health professional subject to the provisions in SB 844 arises. In that case, law enforcement should have all the necessary information to ensure that Oregonians are not abused and/or harmed in any way, including whether that harm or abuse arises from an abortion or gender-affirming care. We also do not support the protection of bad actors simply because abuse or misconduct occurs in the context of abortion or gender-affirming care. The sections of the bill exempting the disclosure of information pertaining to abortion and gender-affirming care to law enforcement and other public bodies is a policy determination that any health professional who violates their licensure regulations or abuses a patient will have the ability to continue violating Oregonians without any accountability.

Section 5 on psilocybin services is likewise problematic because it mandates confidentiality for information obtained in the course of an investigation into a psilocybin training program or licensing process. While the protection of the identity of complainants should be paramount, giving the decision-making power the OHA to determine what can be disclosed and requiring that the requester demonstrate “by clear and convincing evidence that the public interest in

disclosure outweighs any interests in nondisclosure” puts unnecessary obstacles in the way of a complainant who wishes to learn the result of a case or the applicant or licensee who seeks to defend him or herself against a complaint. These provisions are too broad and should be revised.

SB 844 allows abortion and gender-affirming care providers to operate above the law. It gives the OHA too much authority over investigations into psilocybin service providers. For the protection of all Oregonians, please vote against SB 844.

Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE  
Director, Oregon Catholic Conference