

Submitter:

Saren Craig

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

Dear Chair Representative Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Saren Craig. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, and past president of Oregon SAIGE and a USAF veteran. I live in Oregon, and I am here in strong support of HB 4088.

I am a transgender Oregonian and a gender-affirming care provider who works with LGBTQ+ clients. Providers like me have become targets in a culture war because our clinical work has been pulled into broader political battles.

In health care, patient autonomy and the right to make informed decisions about one's own body with qualified providers are paramount. Equally critical is the protection of patient privacy when seeking care. Without strong privacy safeguards, fear of exposure can lead people to delay or avoid medically necessary treatment, undermining both individual wellbeing and public health.

As federal and out-of-state efforts increasingly target reproductive and LGBTQ+ health care, many patients worry about disruptions to treatment or the security of their medical information. Providers, in turn, face concerns about safety, privacy, and politically motivated threats of prosecution. In my clinical work, I see how access to affirming, medically necessary care stabilizes lives—benefits I have also experienced firsthand. When this care is threatened, the impacts are measurable: increased distress, declining mental health, and people forgoing essential treatment. Even the broader climate of fear can delay or deter care. No provider practicing according to evidence-based standards should fear prosecution for supporting their patients. Protecting this care is ultimately about survival, health, and wellbeing.

HB 4088 is critical because it safeguards patient privacy, protects providers, and ensures continuity of evidence-based medical care. Medical decisions should remain between patients and qualified providers, not driven by political agendas or intimidation.

What is at stake is dignity, autonomy, and public health. Oregonians deserve the ability to make medical decisions and to receive care without fear, stigma, or surveillance.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4088 to protect patients, providers, and privacy in Oregon. Thank you for your time, service, and your commitment to the health of the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Saren Craig, LPC

Oregon SAIGE past president

