

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

My name is Cheryl Hefty. I live in Aloha, Oregon. I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088.

As an educator, I've seen firsthand how gender affirming care has saved the lives of students who experienced emotional harm from untreated gender dysphoria. In my personal life, I have also witnessed family and friends receive this same life-saving care. The ability for these individuals to make private and personal decisions about their own bodies in collaboration with their trusted medical professionals is nothing short of a basic human right that needs to be protected. HB 4088 protects access to evidence-based health care in Oregon, including the rights of all Oregonians to make personal medical decisions with their physician, without fear or intimidation of government interference. As federal and out-of-state threats escalate, Oregon has a responsibility to protect its providers' ability to practice medicine and protect personally identifiable patient data and identity records. I stand with our health care providers who provide us legal, essential, and quality health care. We all have the right to have our private personal health information protected when seeking legally-protected health care. Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care, free from interference, stigma, or surveillance.

HB 4088 protects our ability to make informed decisions about our own bodies, our health, and our futures. Control over your own body and private medical decisions are fundamental human rights.

With increasing attacks from the federal administration on reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ health care, patients are concerned for the continuity of their care and health care professionals are fearful for their safety. This bill is critical in safeguarding patient privacy, protecting medical providers from mounting criminalization threats, and ensuring that all Oregonians can receive the health care they need without fear or discrimination. The increasing number of threats in the last few years makes the need for this bill urgent. Oregonians cannot afford to wait. In Oregon, this care remains legal and providers should be able to deliver it without fear of federal intimidation or retaliation.

Efforts to ban health care for transgender people are connected to a larger strategy to push transgender people out of public and civic life. Transgender people are being targeted with overwhelming attacks on their health care, rights, and basic safety. We need to make sure trans Oregonians can access life-saving health care and update their personal records with dignity and privacy. Gender marker and name change records are public, exposing identifying information without the knowledge of gender diverse Oregonians. Oregon is not the first state to take steps to ensure the privacy of identity court records. In 2025,

California passed model legislation that ensures gender marker and name changes are confidential records upon filing for safety purposes. In 2025, 1,020 bills in states across the country were under consideration that would negatively impact transgender, gender non-conforming, two-spirit, and intersex people. That is up from the steadily rising amount annually from 174 bills proposed in 2022. In 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) initiated wide-ranging overbroad investigations into gender-affirming care for minors, issuing more than 20 subpoenas to hospitals, clinics, and physicians across the country. These subpoenas aimed to identify providers and patients involved in gender related care for individuals under 19, often demanding sensitive medical records and personal identifiable patient information. Executive orders, memos, and proposed rulemaking in 2025 explicitly targeted reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ health care access and funding.

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

Cheryl Hefty