

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

I can't begin to say how much the access to gender affirming health care have saved my life. Whether it was hormone therapy or even surgeries, this care made it possible for me to experience life fully: a happier, more present member of our community.

Today, we live in a country with a federal government hostile to the very rights that I and other Oregonians have long held dear: the right to bodily autonomy, to safety, to privacy. Already, we've seen this administration demanding hospitals overturn patient records, such as the Department of Justice's recent, though blocked, attempt to do so at a hospital in Los Angeles. These hospitals' "crime"? Providing life-saving health care to transgender and nonbinary people. And these attacks are not limited to the federal government. We've even seen cases where states, including Texas, have attempted to extradite providers or patients seeking care in friendlier states. Our legislature has the opportunity to protect trans and nonbinary Oregonians through simple, yet profound means: refusing to cooperate with the federal government and other states' attempts to persecute not only patients but providers and to prioritize patient privacy.

I urge our officials to vote YES on HB 4088. Protect the safety and well being of all Oregonians, regardless of sex, gender identity or the kind of care they may need to live happier, more productive lives across our state.