

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

My name is Janet Lowrey. I live in Hubbard, Oregon. I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088.

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.

This care has been life-saving for my family members here in Oregon. Members of my family received the horrifying news on their first pregnancy that the fetus she carried would not become a viable baby and remaining pregnant would put her life in danger. They made the very painful decision to abort the pregnancy and ensure that she, the mom, would not be at risk of losing her life. In some states, this is no longer a legal option. Just like it was not a legal option for my mother in the early 60s in Chicago. Her third baby died in roughly the 7th or 8th month of pregnancy, yet my mother was forced to keep the fetus in her body and deliver it weeks later. She could have died. Women did die. And now some in the U.S. are choosing to go back to this barbaric ban on reproductive rights. No one should be forced to carry a pregnancy against their will. Our community needs this bill to protect 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.

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. Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care, free from interference, stigma, or surveillance. In our state, we stand with our health care providers who provide us legal, essential, and quality health care.

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.