

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

My name is Catherine Karp. I'm from Hillsboro, and I support House Bill 4088. This bill protects Oregonians from government overreach when it comes to accessing reproductive and gender-affirming health care. It protects health care professionals' freedom to provide legal, evidence-based care, and it protects patient privacy. It ensures that Oregonians can receive the health care they need.

This bill matters to me because one of my family members has been able to receive the gender-related health care she needs for several years now. Doing so has dramatically improved her mental health, given her a greater sense of self-worth, and made her more confident, healthier, and happier. She's happy to be alive. She's happy. Period. I am grateful for the care teams across this state and throughout this country who actually listen to trans people and help them survive and thrive in a world that too often dehumanizes them and punishes them for simply existing. I'm grateful for the state representatives who listen, too. Gender-affirming health care saves lives. The disinformation spread about it, the bills and executive orders written to deprive people of it, are discriminatory and cruel. They are the behavior of a government that wants to control and punish its people instead of helping them. They violate human rights and are a shameful way to treat other human beings.

I urge every single one of you on this committee to protect the right of ALL Oregonians to access the health care they need. I urge you to protect the privacy of patients and their health care providers. I urge you to care about the happiness of other people, even if you don't know them or understand them. My loved one's health care has no bearing on your life or the lives of any other lawmaker. It is none of anyone else's business, and the fact that I'm needing to publicly talk about it to protect it is another way the federal government is compromising the privacy of its people. Please support House Bill 4088. Thank you.