

Submitter: Kenneth Steinbacher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

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

My name is Kenneth Steinbacher. I live in Portland, 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.

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.

Health Care is a Human Right: "Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care, free from interference, stigma, or surveillance."

Dignity and Autonomy: "HB 4088 protects our ability to make informed decisions about our own bodies, our health, and our futures."

Economic and Public Health Benefits: "Research shows that access to gender-affirming care improves mental health and reduces public health care costs."

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.

Kenneth Steinbacher, LPC