

Submitter: Andrea Zenn

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 Andrea Zenn, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor 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, people are concerned for the continuity of their care and healthcare professionals are fearful for their safety. This bill is critical in safeguarding patient privacy, protecting medical and mental health 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.

As a Queer mental health provider, I know firsthand how important reproductive and LGBTQ+ health care is for the people who need it. I have seen the trauma caused by people not being able to access the care they need, and I have witnessed the life-saving results in my clients who have had access to reproductive and gender affirming care. Health care is a human right and this bill ensures that Oregonians don't lose access to care with the political climate shifts.

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 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.  
Andrea Zenn, LPC