

Submitter:

Elliot Townley

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

At a time when reproductive & gender affirming care is under massive political attack, I strongly urge the state of Oregon to strengthen our shield laws. Oregon is a leader in gender affirming care, and I myself moved here from a Deep South state in part to obtain gender-affirming medical care. Now, as a behavioral health provider that works with vulnerable patients, I am deeply concerned for my safety and the safety of my patients. I believe Oregon needs stronger legal protections to guard against the attempts of far-Right Republicans and other actors who intend to use Oregonians - or those coming to our great state for protection - as victims in their political game. If it is not written in to law they will exploit any openings they can, to the detriment of our communities.

Anyone coming to Oregon for evidence-based healthcare deserves privacy, protection, and peace, and not be afraid of legal attacks from other states. Providers who are following professional standards of care and evidence-based treatment should not be afraid that their information will be sold and circulated to hostile actors who may stalk and attack us. Patients of any health care expect a standard of privacy, and Oregon state should not abuse this trust by disclosing private health information to other states looking to persecute people for obtaining healthcare here. Oregon needs to take a firm stand on privacy and protection of everyone within the borders of our state. I urge you to vote yes on this measure.