



House Judiciary Committee

HB 4088

Monday, February 2, 2026

Lois Anderson, Oregon Right to Life

Chair Kropf, Vice Chair Chotzen, Vice Chair Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Right to Life to express strong opposition to House Bill 4088 which completely removes oversight and accountability for providers of abortion and gender services. HB 4088 further extends this immunity to those aiding with the transport and facilitation of the services. These are critical safeguards in place that are protecting patients and allowing them to seek legal support, especially in cases of harm, coercion, or criminal misconduct.

With the most permissive abortion laws in the country, Oregon has already expanded access and reduced safeguards in nearly every way possible.

- Abortion is legal for any reason at all stages of pregnancy.
- Children of any age can receive irreversible services, with proven physical and psychological risks, without the knowledge of their parents or guardians.
- Oregon restricts information from law enforcement when it comes to these services.
- Abortion clinics in Oregon do not have the safety regulations that they do in other states.
- Over 80% of abortions in Oregon are funded by taxpayers.
- And more

These laws are similar to laws in China, and are far more extreme than those of our neighbors in Washington and California, every province in Canada, and every country in Europe.

House Bill 4088 takes these already permissive laws even further by barring state and local officials, courts, and providers from assisting with investigations, subpoenas, or legal actions from both in and out of our state related to these services, restricts the disclosure of related health information, and extends immunity protections to midwives.

The real-world consequences of shielding conduct from scrutiny can already be applied. In 2023, Idaho prosecutors charged a woman and her adult son with kidnapping after taking the man's 15-year-old girlfriend across state lines to Oregon to obtain an abortion against her will and without her parents' knowledge, a case involving claims of sexual abuse, concealment, and evasion of parental rights. With this legislation in place, Oregon would refuse cooperation with out-of-state law enforcement and courts, restrict subpoenas and evidence sharing, and limit

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disclosure of information, effectively shielding the adult son and his mother from any prosecution.

Relating to complications, in 2024, OHA reported 5.77% of abortions had posed serious damages, including but not limited to hemorrhage, infection, uterine perforation, cervical laceration, retained products, and failure of the first method, as well as instances where multiple of these or other complications took place. When complications occur, oversight and accountability are essential to protecting patient safety. HB 4088 blocks this accountability.

Outside of the recent events, we frequently hear of bad actors in the medical field; cases where providers abuse their positions of trust and harm vulnerable patients. A striking example is Kermit Gosnell, who was exposed, convicted, and sentenced for horrific medical malpractice while operating a facility that flagrantly violated health and safety regulations. His Philadelphia clinic, described as a "house of horrors," subjected women to unsanitary conditions, untrained staff, and brutal procedures. Gosnell was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a patient and multiple counts of first-degree murder for killing infants born alive after failed abortion attempts.

Gosnell is far from an isolated case. Ulrich Klopfer, an abortion provider in Indiana, was found to have hoarded over 2,200 fetal remains in his home and garage while operating clinics cited for numerous health violations, including failure to report underage abortions. On an even broader scale, forced sterilization scandals, such as those linked to Javier Duarte's administration in Mexico, demonstrate the horrifying consequences when reproductive health care lacks accountability and oversight.

Every major medical abuse scandal, including Gosnell, happened because oversight failed. HB 4088 would write that risk into law. HB 4088 prioritizes protecting providers over ensuring patient safety, without justification. Shielding certain medical services, medical providers, and those facilitating the services from standard oversight undermines accountability and public trust.

For the safety of patients and victims of coercion, abuse, and complications, I strongly urge you to oppose House Bill 4088.