

Submitter:

Emelie Douglas

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

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

My name is Emelie A. Douglas, MA, LPC and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 4088.

As federal and out-of-state efforts increasingly target reproductive and gender-affirming health care that remains lawful in Oregon, patients and providers are facing growing fear, uncertainty, and risk. These actions threaten patient privacy, disrupt continuity of care, and place health care professionals in the untenable position of choosing between ethical practice and personal safety. HB 4088 is a necessary and timely response to these escalating threats.

This bill matters deeply to me as a mental health care provider and someone who supports patients and families navigating complex health systems. I have seen firsthand how fear of surveillance, subpoenas, or criminalization can delay care, limit provider availability, and harm patient trust. Evidence-based reproductive and gender-affirming care is not theoretical—it is essential, often life-saving, and grounded in longstanding medical standards.

HB 4088 provides critical protections by safeguarding patient data, limiting inappropriate cooperation with out-of-state investigations into lawful care, and ensuring that health care workers can practice without fear of retaliation. These protections are especially important as national political shifts increasingly influence health systems, even in states where care remains legal. Without clear statutory protections, providers may be forced to pause or withdraw services out of fear alone—leaving patients without access to trusted care.

What is at stake is not only individual health outcomes, but the integrity of Oregon's health care system. Oregonians deserve to make medical decisions with their providers based on medical need—not political pressure, surveillance, or intimidation. HB 4088 reinforces Oregon's commitment to privacy, dignity, and autonomy, and ensures our state remains a safe place to receive and provide lawful health care.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4088 to protect patients, providers, and privacy in Oregon. Thank you for your time, your service, and your commitment to the people of this state.

Respectfully,

Emelie Douglas, MA, LPC