

Submitter:

Erin Mahone

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 Erin Mahone. I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing in strong support of 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.

I know firsthand how important reproductive health care is because I was the recipient of life-saving reproductive care in my late teens. In 1994, when I had to access this care, I was able to do so without fear or unnecessary barriers. The support, education, and quality healthcare I received have remained a seminal experience in my life. I have fought for reproductive rights and the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals for more than 30 years. And while I never took those rights for granted, I also never imagined they would be taken away. Today, as a mental health professional, I see the fear, the uncertainty, and the emotional weight carried by women and LGBTQIA+ clients who already experience many barriers; now fearing that worse is to come. Our community needs this bill to protect access to evidence-based 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. Research shows that access to gender-affirming care improves mental health and reduces public health care costs.

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 personally identifiable patient information. Executive orders, memos, and proposed rulemaking in 2025 explicitly targeted reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ health care access and funding. 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.

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.

Erin Mahone, LPC