

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

Reproductive rights are under fire, and we must support this act in order to protect Oregonians. As other states reduce access to abortion and vital reproductive care and threaten providers with criminal charges, the negative impacts have become clear. Needless deaths, severe emotional and physical trauma, and lifelong complications are the result of not protecting providers and patients alike. These restrictions and threats destroy lives rather than improve them. It is gut wrenching to see a woman forced to suffer through a traumatic and dangerous miscarriage without aid because professionals aren't safe if they help, and we can't let that happen here.

Just like reproductive health care, gender affirming care is between the patient and their providers. Gender affirming care is proven to reduce suicide rates, and the rates of future dissatisfaction or reversal are heavily exaggerated. Everyone I have encountered who has sought this care has become a brighter, healthier, and more fulfilled person. They did not go into it lightly or without counsel from actual professionals. It has changed their lives, and I'm so grateful that they are still here in part because they could get that care.

To be perfectly frank, the only reasons to oppose this act are pure bullshit. Politics and are the reason these types of care are a point of contention, not medicine. It is theater and personal opinion that drives the debate, not science or concern for patients. The idea of letting providers be punished by the federal government for doing their jobs is disgusting and absurd. We must protect Oregonians and our right to receive lifesaving health care, and protect providers from being punished for continuing to do their jobs as they always have. They aren't idiots performing surgery on unsuspecting children just because they feel like it, and we all know it. They aren't offering up late term abortions on a whim. Let patients and providers decide, together, what is best for the patient instead of a bureaucrat who is convinced that they know what is best for you more than you and your doctor do. Let the doctors do their jobs without fear and let us get the care we deserve.