

Submitter:

Sharlene Walbaum

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

It was 1945. My mother was a young woman, so she had no legal control over her body's reproductive health. She had a strict, abusive father who insisted she couldn't even walk home with a boy. So, when she became pregnant, she was sent to White Shield Home in Portland, had her baby. She was allowed to stay on with her boy and work in the laundry for two years. When she couldn't stay there any longer, she had to go home. Her father gave her a cruel choice - put her child up for adoption or live on the street. She gave her two-year-old away and it haunted her ever since. The same thing happened to my older sister. She became pregnant at 16 and was also sent to White Shield. Mom insisted she give her baby away immediately and it haunted my sister ever since. Here we are, 80 years later, and for girls and young women in 13 states, it is 1945 again. Everyone should have the freedom of self-determination. Every child-bearing person should have reproductive freedom. This bill would make Oregon one state where those basic freedoms are protected. You must pass OR HB 4088.