

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

My name is Owen Wardrop. I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088. With increasing attacks from the federal administration on reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ health care, I am concerned as a patient receiving gender affirming healthcare and as a clinical social worker providing gender affirming care and advocacy that I will both lose access to needed support and not be able to ethically do my job according to established standards in the field. 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 first hand that reproductive and LGBTQIA+ healthcare saves lives every day. I see it in the ways I move through the world as an individual and with my clients. I am scared. My clients live in fear that the care that they need to survive will be outlawed, and providers like me will be criminalized. There are already barriers to clients receiving the timely care that they need due to liability fears that, to be frank, go against the medical standards of care. We don't need more risk harming providers and clients alike. HB 4088 protects access to evidence-based health 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. In 2025, 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. 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 personal identifiable patient information.

Executive orders, memos, and proposed rulemaking in 2025 explicitly targeted reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ health care access and funding. Control over your own body and private medical decisions are fundamental human rights. No one should be forced to carry a pregnancy against their will or be denied the essential health care that allows people to be who they are. Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care, free from interference, stigma, or surveillance. 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.