

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

My name is Ryan McKeever. 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, patients are concerned for the continuity of their care and health care professionals are fearful for their safety.

Gender-affirming care has been life-saving for my partner and me because we are both trans. We fled from our home state of Texas in 2022 because it was unsafe for us there. Oregon has been safe for us and we hope it stays that way. Additionally, as a trans masc person, abortion and contraceptive access is essential and life-saving for me because testosterone therapy can cause birth defects, and I would not survive the dysphoria that carrying a pregnancy would cause. 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. Transgender people are being targeted with overwhelming attacks on our health care, rights, and basic 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. The clinic where I receive gender-affirming care recently removed any mention that they offer this care from their website out of fear of attacks from the federal government, thus preventing future patients from accessing this care. If they were to take things further by not offering this care at all, I worry I wouldn't be able to find another provider offering this care that takes my insurance. 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.

We need to make sure trans Oregonians can access life-saving health care and update our personal records with dignity and privacy. 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. Ryan McKeever