

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

My name is Chelsea Falcon. I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088. With increasing attacks from the federal government on reproductive rights and gender affirming health care, we are concerned for the continuity of our care and healthcare professionals are fearful for their safety.

Gender affirming care has been life saving for me. My partner and I moved to Oregon from a state where our rights to our bodily autonomy were being dismantled, and our safety as transgender people compromised. Having access to this medicine has changed the course of my life. I have gone from someone who felt no reason to live to a student at a university on track to a career. My partner, a software engineer, who lives here as well, also depends on access to gender affirming care to live. Were this security compromised, we would have to move to Canada, and Oregon would be short two skilled workers, taxpayers, and community members.

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.

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 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. Transgender people are being targeted with egregious assaults on our health care, rights, and basic safety. We need to make sure trans Oregonians can access life-saving health care and update their 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.