

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

My name is Emily Barton. I live in Corvallis, 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. 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 firsthand how important reproductive and LGBTQ+ health care is because I, my children, and my nieces all identify as LGBTQ+. I have worked in Non-profit organizations that served homeless youth who needed gender affirming care and were disconnected from their families because of their identities. This work is so important to our young people! I've witnessed the barriers to accessing this care, such as limited gender affirming practices, and children needing to wait beyond puberty to access gender affirming care. This can increase suicidality and have other impacts on health. This care has been life-saving for my family. Our community needs this bill because our kiddos are precious and we can't lose even one of them for lack of gender affirming care! It is very frightening to live in a country where our rights to be who we are and love whom we love are under attack. 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.

We all have the right to have our private personal health information protected when seeking legally-protected health care. Health Care is a Human Right: Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care, free from interference, stigma, or surveillance. Autonomy: HB 4088 protects our ability to make informed decisions about our own bodies, our health, our children's health, and our futures. 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. Efforts to ban health care for transgender people are connected to a larger strategy to push transgender people out of public and civic life and/or eliminate them entirely. Personal Records: Transgender people are being targeted with overwhelming attacks on our/their 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. Gender marker and name change records are public, exposing identifying information without the knowledge of gender diverse Oregonians. Oregon is not the first state to take steps to ensure the privacy of identity court records. In 2025, California passed model legislation that ensures gender marker and name changes are confidential records upon filing for safety purposes. Examples of Increasing Threats: 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.

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. And thank you for considering my testimony! Emily Barton