

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

I submit this testimony in strong support of protecting the right of women and gender-diverse people to access reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare without federal interference.

Healthcare decisions are among the most personal and consequential choices a person will ever make. These decisions belong to individuals, in consultation with qualified medical professionals—not politicians or federal agencies removed from the realities of patients' lives. Federal interference in reproductive and gender-affirming care undermines medical expertise, erodes patient privacy, and places ideology above evidence-based care.

Reproductive healthcare, including contraception, pregnancy care, abortion, and fertility services, is essential to women's health, autonomy, and economic security. Restrictions imposed at the federal level disproportionately harm those already facing barriers to care, including low-income individuals, people in rural communities, people of color, and those with complex medical needs. When access is delayed or denied, the consequences are real: worsened health outcomes, increased financial strain, and loss of personal agency.

Gender-affirming healthcare is likewise medically necessary care. Major medical associations recognize that gender-affirming treatments can be lifesaving, improving mental health, physical wellbeing, and overall quality of life. Federal interference that restricts or stigmatizes this care places patients at risk and creates a chilling effect for healthcare providers who are trying to do their jobs ethically and responsibly.

A one-size-fits-all federal approach cannot account for the diversity of patients, families, and medical circumstances across the country. Protecting access to care means trusting patients and providers, respecting state and local healthcare systems, and upholding the fundamental right to bodily autonomy.

I urge policymakers to reject federal overreach into personal healthcare decisions and to protect the ability of women and gender-diverse people to seek the care they need safely, legally, and with dignity. A just and healthy society is one that centers compassion, evidence-based medicine, and respect for individual freedom.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

