

Submitter: Alexander Rales

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

I am a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and Clinical Social Worker Associate (CSWA) in Oregon and specialize in providing gender-affirming care. Gender-affirming care is vital, life saving treatment. One of the current major barriers to gender-affirming care in Oregon is fear. Each week I talk with clients who are terrified of potential repercussions of their records being released to federal law enforcement without their consent. This can result in stopping treatment which is associated with increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. HB 4088 is an important step in protecting access to care for vulnerable people and ensuring they can safely access needed care without fear of repercussions. I urge you to please support HB 4088 and do what you can to protect our community from harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Alexander Rales, LMSW, CSWA