

HB 4088 Written Testimony

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

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4088 to protect patients, providers, and privacy in Oregon.

My name is Kristen Meyers. 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, I am concerned for the continuity of care for patients who need this care and for health care professionals who 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.

This bill matters to me because I have family members that it affects. I want to know that they will always have access to safe, reproductive care throughout their lives. With increasing threats to this care including efforts from abortion restrictive states attempting to sue telehealth providers from pro-abortion states, we need to ensure that both patients and providers feel safe and are able to freely provide/access this lifesaving healthcare. The escalation is both direct in the manner of interstate lawsuits and more indirect as this administration recently shifted its language around birth control. This administration recently reclassified USAID contraceptives as 'abortifacient birth control'. This deliberate reclassification of every day birth control is a glaring red alarm and we must ensure that patients and providers feel safe accessing and providing reproductive care in this state.

We have someone in our family who has been receiving gender affirming healthcare services from a very young age thanks to living in Oregon. Because of it, they are excelling in school, a 4.0 GPA student and a very talented individual. This past year was gut wrenching for our family member as they navigated the onslaught of cruel and targeted attacks on the very healthcare that has made this family member into the thriving young adult they are. I mean it. They would literally not be here without this care. I don't say that lightly. We spent the last year completely blind sided by the many ways this administration continues its barrage against gender affirming care, even in states where this care is perfectly legal and remains available. It wasn't until April that my family became extremely worried when we saw this administration declare during child abuse prevention month that providing gender affirming care is considered 'one of the most prevalent forms of child abuse' in the US. Aside from there being no proof of this, the statement alone was shocking and eye opening. We then held our breath as the Federal Trade

Commission attempted to lay the groundwork to charge providers with fraud for providing this care. We know how the healthcare providers in our Oregon hospital programs have received countless emails as the community frantically tries to understand the impact of the recent HHS proposed new rules attempting to use CMS, with the goal to end this care nationwide by cutting off access to Medicare and Medicaid for systems that continue to provide gender affirming care. The key takeaway we learned this year: they are not going to stop. This is a targeted and intentional attack on everyone's bodily autonomy.

I have called our Attorney General, Governor and Representatives several times this year. I can't and won't stop fighting to ensure that not just my family and friends, but all Oregonians are able to receive access to the healthcare that is decided by them and their provider. This is a state's rights issue. As Oregonians, we value our individual right to our own bodily autonomy. And at the end of the day, this is about all of us. Every single Oregonian.

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.

Kristen Meyers
2/3/26