

Submitter:

Emily Hutensky

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

As a woman concerned with sex-based rights and child protection, I strongly oppose HB 4088. Generally, the bill is written with such broad language that it can prevent public health researchers from seeking data. Even patients seeking care could be prevented from accessing information. This creates an obvious public health risk. More specifically, the bill is problematic because it conflates issues, bundling reproductive health care for females (which are broadly supported) with experimental and potentially harmful "gender-affirming" treatments, diluting sex-based protections by prioritizing gender identity over biological reality. The bill puts minors and vulnerable groups at risk by shielding them from access to information related to irreversible interventions. These interventions have weak long-term evidence, and non-cooperation clauses in the bill could block probes into regret or harm. The bill also erodes sex-based rights. Provisions easing name/sex changes in the name of privacy could undermine single-sex spaces like women's shelters, prisons, and sports by enabling unchecked legal recognition of gender identity, contributing to the erasure of sex distinctions and compelled speech concerns. The bill decreases professional accountability. Provider immunity risks protecting ideologically-driven care, without requiring rigorous informed consent or follow-up studies. Please consider the broader societal impacts of the bill: the bill may fuel medical tourism from restrictive states, straining Oregon resources, and it risks normalizing practices which are rooted in sexism and/or homophobia.