

Alice Swafford
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HB 4088 Testimony

Hello,

I'm a 22-year-old trans woman from Oregon. I was born and raised here my entire life. I didn't know or understand being trans when I was younger, which kept me from transitioning until I was around 16. Because of this, I ended up having to wait until I was 17 to get hormones. However, even with this wait, I believe that trans healthcare saved my life. Especially because it was covered by state insurance, and I was able to afford hormones. I probably wouldn't be here writing this testimony if it weren't for this program. I have had multiple surgeries that were also covered by insurance and were allowed within this state. Without these surgeries, I would still be incredibly depressed and struggling to function in everyday society. Thankfully, with these surgeries, I have been able to feel comfortable with my body and self. I have been able to engage with the world and help support those in my local community. Along with this, the protections of these services would allow more children like I was to receive healthcare, and if they were educated on it early, could potentially save a lot of money on future surgeries. This was because when I came out and transitioned, I had already gone through most of male puberty, which required more surgeries to fix than I would've had to if I had known and been able to start hormones earlier in my life. I believe protecting these services is vital to making sure a marginalized group is able to live fulfilling lives. As is quoted by multiple medical professionals, the most successful and best method for alleviating gender dysphoria is hormone replacement therapy and gender affirming surgery.