

Submitter:

Amy Ruff

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

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

My name is Amy Ruff. I live in Portland, OR and as a licensed clinical social worker I am writing in strong support of HB 4088. Oregon has historically been a bastion for bodily autonomy rights, personal freedom and comprehensive healthcare - be it reproductive healthcare or gender affirming care. Unfortunately our ability to maintain these values and rights requires additional safeguards for providers and patients to protect them from politically motivated attacks that often come from outside our state. As a provider and community member I have seen trans patients struggle to access the care they need due to fear of discrimination and retaliation from bad faith governmental actors determined to push transgender people out of public and civic life. I have also seen providers shy away from offering comprehensive care, not because it is illegal, but because they fear that they too will face retaliation and recrimination from bad faith political actors seeking to punish the providers who offer care to both trans people and people seeking abortions. HB 4088 protects access to evidence-based health care by ensuring that patients and providers are more thoroughly protected from government and political interference when accessing life saving health care. HB 4088 protects our ability to make informed decisions with a medical professional about our own bodies. Please vote YES on HB 4088 to protect patients, providers and privacy in Oregon.

Thank you,

Amy Ruff