

Submitter:

Katherine Dugan

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4088

I oppose HB 4088 because the bill bundles broadly supported reproductive health care for females with experimental and potentially harmful sex-trait modification treatments, which are not well-supported by evidence to benefit the gender-nonconforming people who may seek them, who deserve quality care and support. These are two completely separate issues, which for some reason keep being grouped together in Oregon. Please separate them.

It shields irreversible interventions that have weak long-term evidence, while non-cooperation clauses could block probes into regret or harm. We need to be very careful about child safeguarding. We need to pay attention to emerging evidence, or lack thereof, when making decisions about these treatments for children. Scientists and reporters need access to data while we sort this out. This care is being taken in many European countries who have rolled back these interventions for children, based on lack of data that they help. Unfortunately this has become a partisan issue in the US. We need to move beyond the partisan divide and practice caution and care with children.

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. We can care for gender-nonconforming people while still acknowledging the material reality of sex.

Provider immunities risk protecting ideologically driven care without requiring rigorous informed consent or follow-up studies. Again, we should be following the science. Patients who were harmed by irresponsible doctors should have a right to sue.