

Submitter: Karen Krajcer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

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

My name is Karen Krajcer, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm writing in enthusiastic support of HB 4088—not just as the parent of a transgender child and a board member of PFLAG Portland but also as a citizen deeply concerned about government overreach.

In 2022, the day after my children's last day of school, my family pulled up our roots from Texas and moved 2,000 miles away to Oregon. All four of us—myself, my husband, and our two children—are native Texans, but when Gov. Greg Abbott directed Child Protective Services to open investigations against the parents of trans kids, we knew we were no longer safe.

Our relocation was motivated by a desire that every parent knows: the desire to protect our children. Shortly after Abbott's order, CPS agents began showing up at schools and pulling kids out of class for questioning. My son, who was nine years old, had to carry an attorney's card in his backpack and practice saying, "I do not consent to speak with you," and my daughter, age ten, asked me, "Am I going to die?"

How absurd it is that families are having to protect their children from the government? Yet this is what we personally experienced—even in our "blue bubble" of Austin—and now, state and federal governments are attempting to intervene in the private medical decisions and personal records of Oregonians. HB 4088 is how Oregon joins a coalition of states that refuse to be bullied by government overreach.

My family's story is not unique. As a board member of PFLAG Portland, I have heard similar experiences from many family members of trans people. PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. Our virtual and in-person meetings draw people from across Oregon and sometimes from other states and countries. People's fear of being barred from lifesaving medical care or of having their personal data shared and misused are not "blue bubble" of Portland issues. People are coming to Oregon because their loved ones cannot receive doctor-recommended healthcare, simply because their state legislators said so.

Though the arguments around HB 4088 focus on access to gender affirming and reproductive healthcare, the larger reason Oregon must support it is one of individual

freedom—freedom to make our own choices without government overreach.

HB 4088 protects people's freedom to make private decisions about their healthcare and for those decisions to remain private. Oregonians don't co-parent with the federal government, and our values of individual freedom and privacy should extend to those who visit our state. All U.S. citizens are protected by the Privileges and Immunities Clause of Article IV and the Fourteenth Amendment and thus hold the right to travel freely between states and receive essential services. Yet when people from out of state come to Oregon to pursue healthcare legal in Oregon, some states seek to charge them for a criminal act. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has been bullying medical providers and state departments to release private information for this very purpose.

No matter your side of the political aisle, these are values we share: freedom from government overreach, the right to privacy, and a parent's right to make the best decisions for their children. Please join me, and so many others who look to Oregon as a beacon of freedom, in supporting HB 4088.

Thank you.