

Submitter:	Susan Emmons
On Behalf Of:	Support HB 4088
Committee:	House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB4088

Oregonians believe that personal health care decisions should be made by individuals and our health care providers — not by politicians and the government.

After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Oregon led the nation by passing strong laws to protect reproductive and gender-affirming health care in our state. However, the federal government and other states have continued to aggressively attack these basic personal and private rights:

Currently, 26 states have restrictive laws on abortion and reproductive health care, and 13 states have total abortion bans, including our neighboring state of Idaho. During 2025, 1,022 anti-trans bills were introduced across the U.S., and 126 of these bills were passed. The Trump administration alone released 18 executive orders targeting the trans community in the past year.

As of January 2026, the ACLU is tracking 96 healthcare restriction bills across the U.S. that target the LGBTQ+ community. These bills include bans and criminal penalties, healthcare funding restrictions, and prison healthcare restrictions related to gender-affirming health care.

Multiple states have also passed bills or used other strategies that criminalize or threaten to criminalize, investigate, or retaliate against people and organizations for providing, receiving, or supporting access to abortion, reproductive, and gender-affirming health care. Indeed, in our neighboring state of Idaho, a person could be charged with abortion trafficking by merely providing information to a minor patient on how to obtain an abortion in another state.

House Bill 4088: Strengthening Patient and Provider Privacy Act would strengthen existing protections in Oregon in several key ways, including:

- Prohibiting public agencies in Oregon from cooperating with federal and out-of-state actions that investigate legal reproductive or gender-affirming health care provided in Oregon.
- Prohibiting extraditions of non-fugitive health care providers or patients who provide or receive legal health care in Oregon.

It would also expand professional protections for healthcare providers and strengthen privacy protections for them too, protect patients' private health data, and protect the privacy of name and gender marker changes.

Oregon healthcare providers and patients should not have to fear retaliation or punishment by the federal government and out-of-state actors for providing or receiving legal health care. Passing this bill is a critical step in safeguarding the rights of patients and providers to access essential health care in Oregon.

Vote YES on HB 4088!