

Submitter: Jessica Hillenbrand
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

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

My name is Jessica Hillenbrand, and I am a resident of Portland, Oregon, writing in support of HB 4088.

This bill creates prudent and necessary protections for patients and providers at a time when their safety, autonomy, and privacy are under threat from federal interference. Infringements on reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ healthcare access have jeopardized the wellbeing of those seeking and providing care across the country. Oregonians deserve clear protection that ensures their right to engage in health services without fear of discrimination, retaliation, or discontinuation.

As a student provider, I am well acquainted with the negative health effects this national intimidation campaign has had, even in communities which may at present appear safeguarded. I am concerned by the potential of people forgoing treatment for fear of disruption, of feeling unable to form a safe and stable connection with a trusted provider, or of declining care in the event that accepting it makes them a target. Even with Oregon's record of strong support for reproductive and gender affirming care, the uncertainty alone is harmful to our community's health. By passing HB 4088, Oregon will provide explicit protection that reinforces the importance of evidence-based care practices, individual autonomy in seeking care, and confidentiality in provider/patient decision making.

I encourage you to vote YES on HB 4088 to communicate to Oregonians that healthcare is a human right, and that they can continue to seek and provide care assured of their safety and dignity. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Jessica Hillenbrand