

Oregon House Judiciary Committee Testimony in favor of HB 4088 Chair Rep. Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee, thank you for considering our testimony.

Our names are Bill Magness and Jessica McFaddin. We live in Portland, Oregon, and are writing to express support for passage of HB 4088. We are the parents of a transgender son, and we moved to Oregon from our home state of Texas in 2023. Our child has benefited socially and emotionally from gender-affirming health care; it provides our son with relief and joy we do not think would have been possible otherwise. We know that access to confidential therapy and medical care from compassionate providers changed his life for the better. And as any parent knows, that change was a gift to our entire family. We are in Oregon because gender-affirming care came under attack in Texas. The state government in Texas threatened our son's doctors and their hospital with prosecution. Ultimately, his providers and others in Texas were forced to close their practices. The state also threatened parents of trans children undergoing care with prosecution for child abuse. We left our home rather than put our family at risk – the risks of withholding of care, of possible criminal action, and of state-sponsored public threats and humiliation. Oregon welcomed us and has welcomed others who have relocated from other states to protect their children. We support Oregon's embrace of supporting people's freedom to live their lives in ways that are true to themselves, and to enable providers of gender-affirming care and reproductive health care to do their work without fear. The state governments that do not embrace those commitments to individual freedom are not satisfied with restricting gender-affirming and reproductive health care in their own territories. They pass laws to criminalize care offered by out-of-state providers and seek to investigate the lives and choices of the people those providers serve – no matter where they live or what their individual circumstances. Those efforts are supported and being accelerated by the current federal administration. States like Oregon should not trust that the status quo will protect the privacy and safety of health care providers and those they serve. It is important that Oregon affirm that health care providers are not punished for providing health care that is legal in Oregon. In addition, state law should affirm doctors, nurses, and allied professionals who stand up for patients who need gender-affirming and reproductive health care to maintain their privacy and the privacy of their patients. The federal administration and hostile state governments, if they are unable to prosecute children, parents, and health care professionals in states like Oregon, will nevertheless use any information available to harass, intimidate, and attempt to shame people for living their lives and doing their jobs. HB 4088 offers protections that will assist both health care providers and the people they serve. These protections are necessary in an environment where the attacks on providers, patients, and their families are relentless. Our family has found a home in Oregon that feels safe and supportive. We know there are other families who have moved here for the same reason. HB 4088 strengthens the protections that make Oregon a safe haven for families and their medical providers. We are grateful for the protection and opportunity and could not be any happier to call Oregon home. Thank you.