

From: Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
Re: Support of HB 4088
Date: 2/3/26

Chair Kropf, Vice Chairs Chotzen and Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals (OFNHP AFT-5017), thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 4088. This legislation is critical to safeguarding patient privacy, protecting health care providers from growing criminalization threats, and ensuring that all Oregonians can access medically necessary care without fear of discrimination, retaliation, or legal risk.

OFNHP represents more than 7,000 nurses and health professionals across Oregon and Southwest Washington, many who provide direct patient care in hospitals, clinics, and community-based settings. Our members are on the front lines of delivering reproductive, gender-affirming, and other essential health services founded on evidence-based practices supported by scientific research. We see firsthand how fear, stigma, and legal uncertainty can delay care, undermine trust between patients and providers, and threaten patient safety.

Although reproductive and gender-affirming care remain legal in Oregon, providers and health systems nationwide are increasingly facing pressure from out-of-state laws and enforcement efforts. This climate of uncertainty has real consequences: providers may hesitate to offer care, patients may delay or avoid seeking treatment, and confidential health information may be put at risk. HB 4088 addresses these challenges directly and responsibly.

HB 4088 strengthens Oregon's existing protections by limiting out-of-state actions against patients and non-fugitive health care providers, expanding licensing and professional protections so providers can continue practicing without fear, and enhancing privacy safeguards for a broader range of health care workers. Importantly, the bill also reinforces protections for sensitive patient health data, including information related to reproductive health care and gender marker changes.

For nurses and health professionals, patient privacy is not an abstract concept; it is foundational to ethical practice and quality care. Patients must be able to trust that their personal health information will not be used against them, and providers must be able to practice evidence-based medicine without fear of criminal or civil repercussions from outside Oregon.

Fundamentally, patients seeking reproductive and gender-affirming care are members of our communities and workforce, and many providers offering this care are workers themselves. Oregon has long been a leader in protecting both worker rights and patient

rights. HB 4088 continues that legacy by affirming that medically necessary care should be guided by clinical judgment, not political intimidation or surveillance.

For these reasons, the Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals respectfully urges your support for HB 4088.

Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to protecting patients and health care providers across Oregon.

Sincerely,
Oregon Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals