

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

My name is Stephanie Bekooy, and I live in Portland Oregon. I have never met you. You have never met me or my lovely daughter. You have not witnessed her growth, her struggles, and how she looks when she holds her head up in dignity. My child has gone from being an introverted, miserable kid, battling to keep her grades afloat, to being a gregarious, thriving teen with wonderful friends and college plans. This change happened because of her LGBTQ+ health care. We need HB 4088 in our state so that my daughter can continue to live with joy and integrity. So that everyone in Oregon has a better shot at joy and integrity. Without protections for patients and providers, it is not hyperbole to feel like we are under attack. My child's well-being is directly threatened, as is the well-being for every kid like her. As parents, there is no denying the change when we see our kids rise out of misery and feel proud of themselves. Without safeguarded health care, all of these humans can crash right back to the dangerous state they were in before they received the care they needed. Health care is one of the most important human rights we have, and the educated, dedicated people who provide it are heroes. Without protection for health care and its providers, there is very little opportunity to pursue life, liberty, or happiness. Please support HB 4088 and the necessary protection it provides. It is nothing short of critical to my family, and to my entire community.

With sincere gratitude, Stephanie Bekooy