

Submitter: Elliott Harwell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

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

My name is Elliott Harwell. I live in Springfield, Oregon. I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088.

I am a director a TransPonder, a local nonprofit that serves Lane and Douglas County by providing mental health and social services to our community. We are staffed by trans and queer people, and while our services are open to all, we are especially concerned about the well-being of our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

As a trans woman, I'm terrified by the prospect of the federal government criminalizing my health care needs, as is every trans person I know. Many of my friends moved to Oregon because of our state is a safer, more just place to lead lives of free of fear. HB 4088 is a necessary step in preserving those rights, not only for trans people but also for women who need abortions. We have watched as our rights have been rolled back across the country; I hope that Oregon will not only stand against the rising tide, but live up to its own state motto.