

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4088

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 4088.

I strongly support patient and provider privacy, and I agree that people seeking medical care should be protected from harassment or politically motivated interference. However, good patient care should not be political. Medicine works best when it is guided by evidence, transparency, and accountability - not when entire areas of practice are shielded from scrutiny because they are controversial.

HB 4088 goes too far by broadly restricting access to health outcome data, oversight, and cooperation with outside regulators and researchers. Medical standards of care are established through ongoing data collection, outcome tracking, peer review, and coordination with federal and international research. Limiting access to de-identified data undermines evidence-based medicine and makes it harder to identify risks, complications, and best practices.

Ironically, the people this bill is intended to protect, namely trans-identifying patients, are likely to be harmed by reduced transparency. Without robust outcome data, we cannot accurately evaluate the effectiveness or long-term health impacts of treatments or improve care over time.

While well-intentioned, HB 4088 creates serious risks: reduced accountability, barriers to independent research, legal uncertainty, and a chilling effect on quality improvement. These unintended consequences will ultimately weaken patient care and public trust.

I urge lawmakers to reject HB 4088 as written and instead pursue legislation that protects privacy **while preserving transparency, accountability, and the ability to practice evidence-based, non-politicized medicine.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Holly Harrington