



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

February 22, 2026

RE: Support for HB 4088

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Alanna Braun, MD, FAAP, and I am a pediatrician and a member of the Board of the Oregon Pediatric Society, the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). On behalf of the Oregon Pediatric Society, I write today in strong support of HB 4088.

HB 4088 strengthens the protections around reproductive health and gender affirming care, and the AAP has been clear of its recognition of the importance of these issues to pediatric healthcare. In June of 2022, the AAP reaffirmed its support for adolescents to receive “comprehensive, evidence-based reproductive healthcare services, including abortion.” In 2018, an AAP statement detailed that access to gender affirming care reduces mental health concerns transgender and gender-diverse youth, who have significantly higher risks for suicide, substance abuse, bullying and harassment. **With growing threats on the federal level, it is absolutely urgent that we protect our patients and providers in Oregon, so people can continue to receive essential, life-saving healthcare without threat or interference.**

As a pediatrician, it is my job to ensure that all my patients receive excellent medical care from my team, and from the specialists that care for my patients. I carefully ask all my patients about what other treatments and medications they are receiving. We know from history and experience that just because an intervention is not explicitly allowed or monitored that people will still seek out options and alternatives – this means receiving procedures from unqualified and unvetted clinicians, finding medications in unsavory and unmonitored places, etc. When we have treatments that are monitored and protected by licensing agencies, we can protect our patients from bad actors. We must strengthen protections for our patients and healthcare providers so that, as providers, we can continue to provide medically necessary and scientifically supported care.

For instance, we have seen in the past that when we restrict access to reproductive health care, people of color and those in rural and medically underserved areas are primarily impacted, thereby increasing their risk of seeking unsafe care. By protecting the right to access reproductive health care, including gender affirming care, we are protecting people’s ability to access vetted, qualified and tracked clinicians. **Access to reproductive health care and gender affirming care is lifesaving.**

Access to safe and legal options for full spectrum and developmentally appropriate reproductive health care, including access to abortion and gender affirming care, is absolutely crucial. **We urge you to vote yes on HB 4088.**

Sincerely,

Alanna Braun, MD, FAAP
Oregon Pediatric Society Board Member