



February 17, 2026

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: Our Children's Oregon
RE: Support for HB 4088 A

Dear Chair Senator Proanski Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is David Wieland, I am the Policy and Advocacy Director with Our Children Oregon. Our Children Oregon's (OCO) role is to advance whole-child advocacy statewide to ensure our children and youth have what they need, regardless of their race or where they live. We collect, analyze, and elevate data and research, and bring together over 135 child serving organizations to develop and advocate for a shared agenda prioritizing the essential needs of Oregon children and their families, so that all children thrive.

I am writing to express support for House Bill 4088 A. For transgender and gender-diverse youth, access to gender-affirming care is life-saving—research consistently demonstrates dramatic reductions in suicidality and depression when youth receive appropriate, affirming support. Similarly, reproductive health care access is fundamental to family economic security, educational attainment, and health outcomes. Access to this care is already woefully unavailable - according to Oregon KIDS Count Data, we know that 48% of youth that identify as gender-diverse have unmet emotional and mental health needs.¹

The bill protects all youth, and particularly marginalized youth, from facing legal consequences for receiving care that is legal in Oregon and ensuring Oregon remains a state where all children can access the health care they need to thrive. In the context of proposed federal and out of state attacks on evidence based, gender-affirming and reproductive care in particular, this proactive state protection is especially critical.

We thank you for your time and efforts to improve child well-being across the state, especially for our transgender and non binary youth. They deserve to thrive in every aspect of their life. We urge your support for HB 4088.

David Wieland
Policy and Advocacy Director
Our Children Oregon

¹ <https://ourchildrenoregon.org/publications/oregon-kids-count/>

