

Submitter: Therese Kollerer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088

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

I am writing in support of HB 4088 A: Strengthening Patient and Provider Privacy Act

Specifically, I am concerned with the increase in federal and out-of-state threats to those seeking reproductive health care and LGBTQ-specific health care. Although everyone is entitled to their own opinions and religious and moral beliefs, it doesn't follow that federal, state or local governments should interfere with personal health care decisions. Every health care decision. Choosing an abortion, or not, is a basic health right. Gender-affirming care is a basic health right. Health care decisions made are absolutely none of the government's business. I am concerned for the safety and privacy of both patients and providers in today's volatile political climate.

This bill will help put in place more protection for Oregonians by:

-prohibiting extradition of non-fugitive health care providers or patients demanded by other states or the federal government which "arises from a person's engagement in legal reproductive or gender-affirming health care activities". A prime example of another state's overreach in these matters is happening in Texas. Texas has launched its first legal actions against out-of-state providers mailing abortion pills, targeting doctors with lawsuits under new state laws (HB 7) that allow private citizens to sue for at least \$100,000.

-restricting the Oregon Health Authority from disclosing individually-identifiable information of patients seeking reproductive or gender-affirming care in Oregon.

-expanding professional protections for providers to include midwives so they are not penalized by the licensing board for providing health care that is lawful in Oregon.

-strengthening privacy protections by restricting public view of records when name and gender changes are filed simultaneously.

-strengthening of provider's privacy protections to cover images and phone numbers for all those who engage in legal reproductive and gender-affirming care in Oregon, including clinic managers, medical assistants, and peer support staff.

I urge you to vote to pass HB 4088.

Thank you.

Sources: HB 4088 A Staff Measure Summary, ACLU of Oregon, State Case Database