

JULES WALTERS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 37



OREGON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of [HB 4088](#)

February 23, 2026

Colleagues, this legislation does not exist in a vacuum. It is not a hypothetical. Oregonians are experiencing delayed and even complete loss of essential health-care as we speak.

Gender-affirming health care is particularly important to me and my family. In previous legislative sessions, I have given testimony which has outlined my son's journey seeking gender-affirming care, to de-stigmatize the process for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

The federal government's agenda to aggressively interfere and deny an individual's right to reproductive and gender-affirming health care has already impacted access to care in Oregon. We have done great work in this building to cushion that blow, but there is more work to be done.

Health-care providers do not feel safe to administer this life-saving care, and many are leaving the state to continue their practice elsewhere.

Make no mistake, Oregonians will die. Oregonians are dying.

For a patient, when gender-affirming-care is paused, it feels as though life itself is paused. It is a barrier to authenticity, and that has devastating impacts.

An estimated 40% of transgender adults have attempted suicide at some point in their lifetimes, and 30% of transgender youth have attempted suicide in the past year.

These deaths are entirely preventable. Rates of anxiety, depression, self-harm, gender dysphoria, and suicide risk have all been shown to notably decrease following gender-affirming hormone therapy or surgical care for those who need it. This is precisely why gender-affirming hormone therapy and surgeries are considered medically necessary for many patients.

Colleagues, if our esteemed medical health providers are being threatened into submission, imagine the fear that our transgender and gender-affirming care seeking constituents are facing right now.

I can tell you as a mother, the fear is immense.

This legislation is the first step in relieving this fear for our neighbors, our friends, and our families.

It boldly reinforces that we **stand** with our health care providers who provide us *legal and essential* health care.

That *everyone* has the right to have their private, personal health information protected when seeking *legally-protected* health care.

And *everyone* deserves access to medically necessary care, free from *interference, stigma, or surveillance*.

House Bill 4088 is hope for those who feel trapped in a hopeless system.

That is why I was proud to vote yes on this bill, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

Sincerely,

Representative Jules Walters

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jules Walters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

