

I am writing in support of HB 4088.

Oregon has long been a leader nationally with strong laws that protect the rights to reproductive and gender-affirming health care including a shield law passed in 2003 following the 2022 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health Organization* that took away the long-established federal constitutional right to abortion health care.

But it is no longer enough. Since *Dobbs* a number of states have banned or restricted the right to abortion and related reproductive health care, and the federal government has actively worked to reduce or cut off access to such care. As a result of these aggressive and cruel laws and policies, women have died and the lives and health of many more have been jeopardized. <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/abortion-in-the-u-s-dashboard/> The right to gender-affirming care has also been restricted in a number of states.

Health care providers of reproductive health or gender-affirming care are increasingly targeted for prosecution and retribution as a result of these alarming federal and out of state attacks on reproductive and gender-affirming health care. The attack on such care is growing nationwide and has put at risk patients seeking care in Oregon as well as our health care providers. Fears of surveillance, involvement in federal or out of state criminal investigations, and retaliation are not only disruptive to care but certainly deter essential and lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care.

HB 4088 would address these growing attacks and fears and strengthen Oregon's commitment to reproductive and gender-affirming health care with a far-reaching prohibition on any cooperation with any investigation or inquiry into reproductive or gender-affirming health care in Oregon that was lawfully provided or received or attempted to be provided or received, or aided or encouraged.