



Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon. For the record my name is Brooke Hill and I am speaking today on behalf of Oregon AFSCME. We are a labor union of around 40,000 members advocating for workers and their families in the public and private sectors. I'm speaking in support of HB 4088 A

Across our country, we've seen increased attacks on reproductive healthcare and gender affirming care. Oregon is being targeted by other states and by the federal government for providing healthcare that is legal in our state. There has been robust discussion on this measure and questions about what it does from the house side. With my time today I'd like to present simply what this bill does and does not do.

This bill does prohibit Oregon's public agencies from participating in federal or out of state actions to investigate providers operating legally in Oregon. It does not infringe on the rights of parents, providers, or individuals accessing this type of care. This bill does expand professional protections for providers, by including midwives as protected providers by this legislation. It does not create carve outs or additional expansions for care outside of the scope of this legislation.

I've also heard arguments stating that Oregon does not need this legislation, because we already have accessible gender affirming and reproductive care. I'd argue that increased protections are needed, because there's been increased scrutiny, violence, and vitriol directed towards women seeking reproductive healthcare or LGBTQ+ individuals seeking gender affirming care.

Federal action has led to a pause or complete stoppage in certain healthcare services, due to lack of resources and to the chilling effects that the actions of the federal government has had across our country. Fear of criminalization and retaliation has led many providers to question how they can move forward with their work, and HB 4088 provides clarity and expanded protections.

I'd ask the committee to consider the language actually written in this bill, and listen to the countless voices of providers and patients who need these protections. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,  
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