



Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: Support HB 4088A, Strengthening Patient and Provider Privacy Act

February 23, 2026

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

My name is Pavithra Iyer. I am a student at the University of Oregon and also a Legislative Organizer at Next Up Action Fund. For over 20 years, Next Up Action Fund has worked to foster the next generation of young leaders in Oregon.

I am speaking here today in two capacities. First, as the president of the Planned Parenthood Generation Action club at the University of Oregon, I know that **reproductive rights are at the forefront of our minds as young people today**. We know that abortion is healthcare and that healthcare is a human right. Yet when Roe V. Wade was overturned in 2022, it not only sent our country back 50 years, but it also sent a message to young people that **our rights are always at risk**, that the protections we were promised can be taken away before our eyes.

As federal attacks on reproductive rights and gender-affirming care only intensify, Oregon must take a stand. **While access to care is legal in our state, we cannot be complacent or naive about the threat of federal overreach**. Right now, both Oregonians and out-of-state aspirants who undergo reproductive or gender affirming care, as well as the health professionals who provide this care, are all at risk. With levels of violent anti-abortion and anti-trans rhetoric off the charts, **HB 4088A provides five key provisions to keep our community safe:**

expanding professional protections for providers to include midwives, **strengthening providers' privacy protections** to include cover images and phone numbers, **protecting patients' private health data**, and **protecting the privacy of name and gender marker changes**.

HB 4088A is life-saving protection for countless Oregonians, but especially for transgender youth, who are one of the most at-risk and under-attack communities in our country today. Studies show that **transgender youth who do not have access to secure gender affirming care have a significantly higher risk of** mental health issues and **suicidal ideation**. We must make access to this life-saving care as safe and accessible as possible. Already, because of President Trump's anti-trans actions, one of my closest friends had his top surgery cancelled at the age of 17, which he had been waiting for for years. He will finally get the surgery this summer, but when he does, I want him to know that not only can he access the healthcare that allows him to be who he is, but that we protect his right to do so. And I want my friend to be not just free and happy, but safe.

For Oregonians and young people everywhere looking toward us, I urge you to vote YES on HB 4088 A and protect patients, providers, and privacy in our state. Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Oregon.

Pavithra Iyer
Legislative Organizer
Next Up Action Fund