

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

My name is Finn Johnson, and I live in the Lane County, Oregon area. I am a researcher specializing in LGBTQIA+ legislation, law, and policy, and I am here to express my strong support for HB4088 A.

For more than a decade, I have tracked the growth of legislation affecting LGBTQIA+ people across the United States. During that time, Oregon has distinguished itself as a national leader not only in protecting LGBTQIA+ rights, but in affirming their importance to the health and safety of our communities. At a moment when transgender people are facing increasingly targeted and restrictive policies nationwide, HB 4088 A represents a critical step in safeguarding access to medically necessary, evidence-based care.

This bill protects both patients and providers. It helps ensure that individuals seeking gender-affirming care can do so without fear that their private medical decisions will be politicized or exposed. At the same time, it shields healthcare professionals from criminalization or threats to their licensure when they follow established clinical standards, act in accordance with best practices, and uphold their ethical obligation to treat patients equitably and without harm.

Efforts to ban or severely restrict transgender healthcare are part of a broader pattern that risks further marginalizing an already vulnerable population. By contrast, passing HB 4088 A would reinforce Oregon's commitment to bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and evidence-based practice. It would also signal to other states that protecting vulnerable populations is both responsible public policy and consistent with core medical and legal principles.

Current research underscores the importance of access to gender-affirming care. Data from the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey, which included more than 90,000 participants, found that gender-affirming care substantially improved quality of life for the overwhelming majority of respondents (98%), while reported detransition was relatively uncommon (at 9%) and most often linked to external social pressures rather than regret about treatment itself. These findings align with the broader international medical consensus supporting access to such care. Critically, many reputable and leading medical organizations in the U.S. broadly support access to gender affirming care for youth and adults, including, but not limited to, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, and the Federation of Pediatric Organizations. There are 24 others on that list, but it is too exhaustive to recount here.

Cisgender individuals routinely access hormone therapies and surgical procedures that support their well-being and sense of self. Transgender people deserve the same respect for their autonomy and the same access to appropriate medical care.

I respectfully urge you to vote yes on HB 4088 A and continue Oregon's leadership in protecting the health, dignity, and rights of all its residents.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.