

Submitter: Michelle Portera
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4088
Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB 4088-A.

This bill expands statutory protections for abortion and gender-related medical interventions while limiting certain enforcement cooperation. These are profound medical and ethical matters — particularly when they involve minors — and they deserve caution, not permanent codification.

First, regarding gender-related medical interventions for youth:

- European health authorities in countries such as Sweden and Finland have recently restricted or reevaluated the routine use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for minors, citing insufficient long-term evidence and concerns about risk-benefit balance.
- A growing number of clinicians and researchers have called for stronger mental health–first approaches, noting that long-term data on fertility impact, bone density, sexual function, and regret rates remain incomplete.

When evidence is evolving and long-term outcomes are uncertain, the state should not remove safeguards or expand liability shields. Children deserve careful, evidence-based care centered on comprehensive psychological support before irreversible medical steps are considered.

Second, parental rights must remain central.

Parents have a fundamental responsibility and constitutional role in directing the medical care of their children. Any policy that weakens parental involvement, limits transparency, or shields providers from accountability risks undermining family autonomy and trust. Oregon should strengthen families — not sideline them in decisions with lifelong consequences.

Finally, women facing unplanned pregnancies deserve full-spectrum support.

True choice includes meaningful access to prenatal care, housing assistance, financial support, adoption services, and counseling — not simply the expansion of abortion access. If this legislature is committed to supporting women, equal investment in pro-life and parenting resources should accompany any expansion of

abortion protections.

Oregonians hold diverse and deeply held views on these issues. Legislation of this magnitude should reflect careful deliberation, medical humility, and respect for families.

I urge you to reject HB 4088-A and instead pursue policies that:

- Prioritize mental health support for youth
- Protect parental rights and medical transparency
- Ensure balanced support for women in crisis pregnancies
- Maintain accountability and oversight in healthcare

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Michelle Portera