

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

My name is Kat Prince Kosmos.

I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088. With increasing attacks from the federal administration on reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ health care, patients are concerned for the continuity of their care and health care professionals are fearful for their safety. This bill is critical in safeguarding patient privacy, protecting medical providers from mounting criminalization threats, and ensuring that all Oregonians can receive the health care they need without fear or discrimination. The increasing number of threats in the last few years makes the need for this bill urgent. Oregonians cannot afford to wait. In Oregon, this care remains legal and providers should be able to deliver it without fear of federal intimidation or retaliation.

Transgender health care impacts me both personally and professionally. I was privileged enough access gender affirming care to align with my non-binary identity which has had overall impact on my mental and physical well-being in positive ways. Additionally, I am a licensed psychologist in the state of Oregon. There is a growing concern in our profession about providing necessary letters for individuals seeking gender affirming care due to increasing threats. I have adjusted my policies as necessary, but myself and my collegial peers consider if it something that we can maintain in the long term due to fears of retaliation. This is a necessary step. We know the impact of having access to gender affirming care for gender diverse individuals, statistics show a regret rate of less than 1% and reduce suicidal. Gender Affirming Care is Health Care. Thank you for your time,

Dr. Kat Kosmos, PsyD Licensed Psychologist