

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

Dear Chair Prozanski Vice-Chair Thatcher, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, My name is Cayla Panitz. I'm writing in strong support for HB 4088 A. 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 to be 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. I know first hand how important reproductive and LGBTQ+ health care is because I have had to access this care for myself; many of my friends have also had to obtain gender affirming, contraception or abortion care. Additionally I am a mental health therapist who works primarily with the LGBTQ+ population, many of whom need to access this care. We all have the right to have our private personal health information protected when seeking legally-protected health care. I have seen how having access to this care protects and promotes mental health and well being. I have also seen how not having access to trusted providers and necessary health care can have a significantly negative impact on a person's mental health, increase suicidality and lead to isolation, depression and anxiety. Furthermore, as a mental health provider who practices gender affirming care and works with many other providers who provide this care, I understand how critical is is that providers feel protected as they continue to administer gender affirming and reproductive healthcare. If providers feel threatened and intimidated and worried about their own livelihood or safety, this is going to have a significantly negative impact on the communities who most need their care and support. In Oregon, we stand with our health care providers who provide us legal, essential, and quality health care. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, a person with a uterus and ovaries and a mental health provider, the passing of HB 4088 A is extremely important to me. HB 4088A protects access to evidence-based health care in Oregon, including the rights of all Oregonians to make personal medical decisions with their physician, without fear or intimidation of government interference. As federal and out-of-state threats escalate, Oregon has a responsibility to protect its providers' ability to practice medicine and protect personally identifiable patient data and identity records. Health Care is a Human Right: Everyone deserves access to medically necessary care, free from interference, stigma, or surveillance. HB 4088 protects our ability to make informed decisions about our own bodies, our health, and our futures. Control over your own body and private medical decisions are fundamental human rights. No one should be forced to carry a pregnancy against their will or be denied the essential health care that allows people to be who they are. Efforts to ban health care for transgender people are connected to a larger strategy to push transgender people out of public and civic life. Transgender people are being targeted with overwhelming attacks on their health care, rights, and basic safety. We need to make sure trans Oregonians can access life-saving health care and update their personal records with dignity and privacy. Gender marker and name change records are public, exposing identifying information without the knowledge of gender diverse Oregonians. Oregon is not the first state to take steps to ensure the privacy of identity court records. In 2025, California passed model legislation that ensures gender marker and name changes are confidential records upon filing for safety purposes. I urge you to vote YES on HB 4088 A to protect patients, providers, and privacy in Oregon. Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the people of Oregon.