

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

My name is Cee Bondurant. I'm writing in strong support of 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. As a mental health consultant for LGBTQ+ youth, this bill is important to me because access to gender affirming medical and mental health care saves children's lives. The data supports this. Youth with access to gender affirming care experience 60% decrease in moderate to severe depression and 73% decrease in suicidality. As a clinician, I have witnessed this first hand. Our youth are watching. Show them they matter. Thank you.

References: 2024 National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care (Diana M. Tordoff, MPH; Jonathon W. Wanta, MD; Arin Collin, BA