

HB4088 Testimony

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, and Wallan, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brandy Penner. I am a woman, parent, and LGBTQ+ advocate, and I write in strong support of HB 4088, the Strengthening Patient and Provider Privacy Act.

All Oregonians deserve access to lawful, evidence-based healthcare without fear of government interference or persecution. Our reality since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* is increased attacks on reproductive and gender-affirming care across the country, along with threats to the providers who deliver that care. HB 4088 is a necessary response to protect patients' privacy, safeguard our medical records, and ensure providers can continue practicing legally and safely in Oregon.

Access to gender-affirming care saves lives. Period. Misinformation and transphobia can not dictate the personal and private decisions made between a patient and their care provider. As a state, we must protect science-based, comprehensive, and robust care for every Oregonian.

Healthcare organizations across our state echo this urgency. Providers are facing growing federal and out-of-state threats, investigations, and data requests that create fear and instability within our healthcare system. In other states, hospitals have already paused essential reproductive and gender-affirming care due to similar pressures. Oregon must act now to ensure that does not happen here.

HB 4088 fortifies legal protections for patients and providers, safeguards sensitive data from misuse, and ensures that personal medical decisions remain between patients and their physicians.

I respectfully urge you to vote Yes on HB 4088 to protect patients, providers, and the fundamental right to privacy in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brandy Penner
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