

# HB 2002

## 2023 Reproductive Health & Access to Care Legislative Package

In Oregon, we believe that everyone deserves access to high quality health care — no matter who we are, where we live, or how much money we make — and that includes the full spectrum of sexual, reproductive, and gender affirming care. For years, our state has led the nation in protecting and expanding access including: codifying abortion rights into state law; Oregon Health Plan coverage of gender affirming care in 2015; landmark protections and expansion of care through the 2017 Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA); and the creation of the Reproductive Health Equity Fund in 2022.

### The Problem:

However, significant barriers to the full spectrum of care still exist in our state for many communities including: Low-income Oregonians, those living outside of the I-5 corridor, women, LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrants, and people with disabilities.

With the overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, we've seen states across the nation take steps to ban and restrict access to gender-affirming care, denying transgender and gender-expansive people life-saving medical care. People in Oregon have already felt the impacts of the rapidly changing healthcare landscape, with the most significant burden falling on those who've struggled to access care long before this Supreme Court decision came down.

### Inequitable Access to Care

- ¾ of Oregon counties do not have an abortion provider
- 30% of all Oregon hospital beds are in hospitals that may claim non medical exemptions to providing reproductive health services
- 1 in 5 individuals seeking abortion care had to travel long distances *before* the overturn of *Roe* - upwards of 350 miles for some Oregonians
- 47% of Americans are not prepared to cover an unexpected \$500 expense, the average cost of a medication abortion without insurance
- Nearly ¾ of transgender Oregonians do not live near a provider who has openings within a month to receive services. This can translate to years-long waitlists for life-saving gender affirming care.

### Our Solution:

To address growing disparities and increased threat to our rights, Speaker Dan Rayfield, in collaboration with Senate President Rob Wagner and Attorney General Rosenblum, formed the Reproductive Health and Access to Care work group in 2022. Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Senator Lieber, Senator Steiner, Rep. Nelson and Rep. Valderrama, more than 80 stakeholders representing local community organizations, providers, national legal experts, patients, clinics and advocates worked to identify barriers for patients seeking care, the challenges healthcare providers and facilities face in delivering care, and the potential legal issues patients and providers may face. Through extensive research and discussion over 6 weeks, the work group established the following priorities to move Oregon forward in our work to ensure a more just and equitable health care system that can support us all by:

## Protecting Providers & Health Care Centers

1. Protecting providers' ability to provide care to all patients who seek gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare in Oregon
2. Preventing interference with health care centers and providers from harassment and abuse
3. Ensuring the confidentiality and privacy of providers and patients is protected

## Expanding Access to Care

1. Closing gaps in: insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on OHP, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities
2. Enhancing access to care in medically underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program
3. Addressing reproductive healthcare deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions

## Ensuring Fundamental Rights

1. Codify the right to the full spectrum of reproductive care
2. Protecting individuals from criminal and civil liability for supporting, or providing reproductive and gender affirming care that is legal in our state

# Our Coalition



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