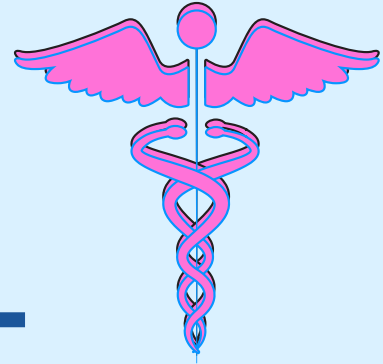




# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & ACCESS TO CARE (RHAC) BILL



**When the Supreme Court overturned Roe, people all across the country lost the freedom to make their own health care decisions.**

**Here's how RHAC restores and expands Oregonians' rights and freedoms:**



## **Stops Politicians from Interfering in the Medical Decisions Between Providers and Patients**

Patients know what is best for them and doctors know what is best for their patients. With RHAC, we're making sure politicians stay out of the deeply personal health care decisions made between a patient and their doctor.



## **Secures & Expands Access to Abortion & Gender-Affirming Care**

The dangerous Supreme Court Dobbs decision overturned Roe and 50 years of precedent. Even with Oregon's existing, strong protections, we need to make some fixes to ensure every Oregonian has the same protections and access to care they did under Roe. RHAC will protect our bodily autonomy and individual freedoms by expanding access to abortion and gender-affirming care across the entire state--no matter your income or zip code.



## **Protects Health Care Providers**

RHAC makes sure Oregon law is abundantly clear so that providers can care for their patients without restrictions. It also shields providers from anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-freedom laws in other states.



## How does RHAC work?

### Protects providers delivering high quality, individualized care by:

- Shielding providers' licenses and insurance from the negative impacts from other states' anti-trans and anti-abortion laws. This protects providers' ability to provide care to all patients seeking gender-affirming and reproductive health care in Oregon without fear or uncertainty.
- Protecting providers' physical safety and keeping clinics open by expanding existing legal framework.



### Clarifies and expands access to abortion and gender-affirming care by:

- Making sure Oregon law is abundantly clear so providers can treat each patient based on their unique circumstances.
- Closing gaps in insurance coverage for gender affirming care, contraception access on Oregon Health Plan, and reproductive healthcare services at public universities.



### Addresses geographic and financial barriers to abortion and gender-affirming care by:

- Enhancing access to care in medically underserved regions through a pilot mobile health clinic program.
- Addressing reproductive healthcare deserts by expanding services at existing health centers at public institutions.





# Why do we need RHAC?

**In Oregon, we believe that people should make their health care decisions in consultation with their provider—not politicians.**

**It's why we have some of the strongest abortion and reproductive health access laws in the country.**

**But our rights are at risk.**

Ever since the Supreme Court decided to overturn Roe, all of our rights and freedoms have been put on the line. In this uncertain legal climate, we can't take anything for granted.



## FACT CHECK

### **Does this bill make health care decisions for a patient and their doctor?**

**No.** This bill does not make health care decisions for patients and their doctors. It protects their right to make evidence-based choices related to medically-necessary care. It does not allow doctors to go against standard medical procedure.

### **Oregon already codified the right to abortion and contraception. Why do we need this bill if abortion is already protected here?**

Following the dangerous Dobbs decision that undermined Oregonians' basic rights, we are taking action to protect our people and their freedoms. Even with Oregon's existing, strong protections, we need to make some fixes to ensure every Oregonian has the same protections and access to care they did under Roe.

### **Does this cover the costs of people coming from out of state?**

**No, this bill does not cover costs** or expand insurance coverage under OHP to people coming out of state.



# FACT CHECK

## What is gender-affirming care?

Gender-affirming care (GAC) is widely-recognized, evidence-based, medically necessary healthcare that supports a person's right to live their true gender identity, if it conflicts with the identity the person was assigned at birth. It is supported by major health organizations like the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, and many more.

## Does this bill change the age of consent?

The medical age of consent in Oregon is 15 – this bill doesn't change that. Nor does it change scope of practice or existing medical standards.

Because Oregon law is silent on age in terms of abortion care, Roe protected the right to an abortion regardless of age and providers interpreted that right and individual circumstances at their discretion. This bill makes sure that is clarified.

## Does this bill stop parents from being involved?

The vast majority of minors involve their parents in their healthcare decisions, and when parents aren't involved there is a good reason. The main focus is always on the minor's safety.

Providers have the discretion to notify parents if that's part of keeping the minor safe and healthy, but unfortunately that's not always the case. When providing any medical care to a minor, it's procedure to screen for any signs of abuse or danger – even if it's just suspicion — and report it. This means looking out for signs of physical, emotional, general distress, and past abuse.

Providers' primary concern is protecting and caring for their patient. All providers have a duty to do what's best for their patient and this bill will not change that. In fact, RHAC shields that duty.