



PRESS RELEASE
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Oregon LGBTQ+ Caucus Denounces Offensive Attacks on Abortion, Trans Communities

SALEM, Ore. – Last week, the Joint Ways & Means Committee passed the Reproductive Health & Access to Care bill, HB 2002, out of committee. Opponents of the measure, including legislative Republicans, used social media and newsletters to spread offensive, dangerous, and false claims about the bill and the LGBTQ+ community.

According to the Trevor Project, the majority of transgender youth in Oregon have experienced mental health issues in the last year, including anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation, with [90% of LGBTQ+ Oregon youth](#) saying recent political news has negatively impacted their well-being.

In response, Oregon's LGBTQ+ Caucus releases the following statement:

“In Oregon, we believe in freedom, bodily autonomy, dignity, and respect. The Reproductive Health & Access to Care bill is built on the value that every Oregonian should be able to make health care decisions about their own bodies and have affordable and timely access to that care,” **said Representative Rob Nosse (D-Inner SE & Inner NE Portland)**.

One in four women [will have an abortion](#) by the time they are 45, as will many transgender and nonbinary people.

This year, [more than 450 bills](#) attacking LGBTQ+ rights have been introduced in statehouses across the country.

“As the last few years have demonstrated all too clearly, elected leaders' words have real world consequences. Language dehumanizing, degrading, or demonizing the LGBTQ+ community is dangerous,” **said Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton)**. “Regardless of your opinion on this legislation, these kinds of attacks are unacceptable.”

“As legislators, we stand committed to creating a safe and diverse state where LGBTQ+ communities can be who they are without political or economic barriers to health care,” **said Representative Travis Nelson (D-N & NE Portland)**.

“These attacks remind me of what it was like growing up gay at a time when marriage equality was a political debate,” **said Representative Ben Bowman (D-Tigard, Metzger & S Beaverton)**. “When my rights were the subject of a political debate, it took a toll on me and kept me in the closet for years. I want the entire LGBTQ+ community, including trans and non-binary people, to know this: we will fight to protect your right to be yourself and to feel safe in your community.”

“Across the country, we are seeing laws passed that are based in fear: fear of science, fear of diversity, and fear of progress,” **said Representative Dacia Grayber (D-SW Portland & E Beaverton)**. “Here in Oregon we refuse to lead with fear. Instead, we will lead with what we know to be true: abortion and gender-affirming care are life-saving care.”

Available Resources for LGBTQ+ Youth & Communities:

- The Q Chat Space provides online support for LGBTQ2IA+ teens ages 13 to 19. The program is run by a nonprofit made up of local LGBTQ+ centers and organizations. Go to www.qchatspace.org to find support.
- If you are feeling suicidal or that you are going to hurt yourself, you are not alone. Please call the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. You can also reach out to the Trevor Project, a 24/7 support line specifically for LGBTQ+ young people: 1-866-488-7386.

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