

## Press Release

<u>For Immediate Release</u> April 14, 2017 For More Information, Contact: Scott Moore (503) 986-1904 scott.moore@state.or.us

## Reproductive Health Equity Bill Passes Healthcare Committee

HB 3391 expands and protects access to reproductive healthcare

SALEM—This morning, the Oregon House Healthcare Committee passed <u>House Bill 3391</u>, the Reproductive Health Equity Act, clearing the way for the bill to continue through the legislative process.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act would preserve and expand access to reproductive health care, including birth control with no co-payment, prenatal care, abortion, and a number of other reproductive health services. It seeks to secure and broaden many of the essential provisions of the Affordable Care Act, protect the right to choose, and provide care for new mothers.

HB 3391 passed the Healthcare committee today, and will now move to the Joint Ways & Means Committee for further consideration.

"I'm thrilled to see this important bill moving forward," says **Rep. Julie Fahey** (**D-West Eugene and Junction City**), one of the bill's chief sponsors. "Today's vote is the result of collaboration between many people who are all committed to improving health care access for all Oregonians."

## HB 3391:

- Ensures that all Oregonians receive comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services.
- Fills gaps in reproductive health coverage for those categorically excluded from health programs due to citizenship status by expanding full benefits for 60 days of post-partum care;
- Prohibits discrimination in accessing or obtaining coverage for reproductive health care, including discrimination based on gender identity; and
- Codifies the right to safe and legal abortion in Oregon, which is particularly important given the uncertain future of Roe v. Wade.

The chief sponsors of HB 3391 are Sens. Laurie Monnes Anderson (D-Gresham) and Richard Devlin (D-Tualatin), House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-SW & NW Portland), and Reps. Julie Fahey (D-West Eugene & Junction City) and Jeff Barker (D-Aloha).

"Oregon has led the way in preserving access to reproductive care for many years, even while politicians in other states have voted to strip these protections away from women," says **Rep. Williamson**. "Now, with Trump and Congressional Republicans waging a direct assault on women's health care, it's time for Oregon to take the next step forward."

"As a former police officer, I've seen firsthand the devastating impacts that come with a lack of access to health care and reproductive care," says **Rep. Barker**. "This bill ensures that all women, regardless of their economic status, can use these health care services when they need them. The bill also guarantees the right to choose an abortion, an important protection considering what's happening in D.C."

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