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NEWS RELEASE

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Reproductive Health and Access to Care Act Becomes Law

A product of the Reproductive Health & Access to Care (RHAC) workgroup, House Bill 2002 touted as first-in the nation legislation to protect access to abortion and gender-affirming care

SALEM, Ore. - Today, Governor Tina Kotek held a ceremonial signing of [House Bill 2002](#). This law was developed based on recommendations made by the Reproductive Health and Access to Care (RHAC) workgroup, [convened](#) by House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D- Corvallis) following the leaked *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision in May of 2022.

The RHAC Act responds to the changing legal landscape after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. When *Dobbs* upended 50 years of precedent, it caused fear and uncertainty among medical providers and patients and has further threatened access to reproductive health and gender-affirming care in Oregon and across the country.

“Since we learned of the possibility that *Roe* would be overturned last spring, Oregonians have been clear: we are committed to protecting, strengthening, and expanding safe, equitable access to reproductive and gender-affirming care—no matter who you are, where you live, or how much you make,” **said Rayfield**. “Now, we’ve delivered on that promise.”

The RHAC work group compiled and [released](#) a [report](#) in December 2022 on the gaps that still exist for access to abortion and gender affirming care in Oregon. House Bill 2002 is based on the findings and recommendations from this report. The workgroup was led by Speaker Rayfield, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, Senator Kate Lieber, Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Representative Andrea Valderrama, and Representative Travis Nelson.

“We began this workgroup process during an ‘all-hands-on-deck’ moment,” **said Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum**. “Oregon can and must continue to be a leader for reproductive justice. It was an honor to work alongside so many other elected champions and community partners to keep Oregon a safe place for providers and patients in clinics providing abortions and other reproductive healthcare.”

Under the work group’s leadership, more than 80 stakeholders including patients, providers, advocates, community groups, and legal experts, worked through an extensive research process and a series of discussions over many months 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.

“Laws criminalizing abortion in other states have made health care providers everywhere fearful of the risk of losing their licensure and malpractice coverage, or even criminal prosecution” **said Maria Rodriguez MD, MPH Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at OHSU and member of the RHAC workgroup**. “The Reproductive Health and Access to Care law will protect Oregon providers from legal harassment and ensure ongoing access to abortion care for all who need it.”

The RHAC Act secures Oregon’s status as a national leader in protecting equitable access to reproductive health and gender affirming care.

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