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Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Democrats Keep Promise to Oregonians, Pass Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill

House Bill 2002 ensures that Oregonians are able to make their own decisions about their own bodies

SALEM, Ore - Today, <u>House Bill 2002</u>, the Reproductive Health & Access to Care (RHAC) Bill, passed in the Oregon Senate.

The Reproductive Health and Access to Care bill protects Oregonians' basic rights and freedoms. Specifically, the right to make your own decisions about our own body, a right Oregonians overwhelmingly support. 72% of Oregonians, including 62% of rural Oregonians, support abortion rights.

This legislation responds to the reality that, even in Oregon, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* created fear and uncertainty among medical providers and patients. The RHAC Bill preserves and protects access to care by:

- Keeping politicians out of the deeply personal health care decisions made between a
 patient and their doctor by clarifying patients' right to reproductive care, including
 abortions in state law.
- Shielding Health Care Providers from anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+, anti-freedom laws in other states, ensuring they can continue to care for patients in Oregon.
- Clarifying and expanding access to abortion and gender-affirming care by closing gaps in insurance coverage.

"The Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill is an affirmation of Oregon values. We are sending a clear message that our state is a beacon of hope for the rights and autonomy of our people," **said Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D-Beaverton and SW Portland).** "We are defending the fundamental freedoms that Oregonians have counted on for decades. I'm proud that we could deliver this victory for the health, safety, and future of our state"

"Right now, young people are choosing where to live, work, and start their own families, and they are overwhelmingly choosing places like Oregon – where we protect their right to make their own choices about their own bodies," **said Senator Winsvey Campos (D-Aloha).** "With so many threats and attacks on reproductive and LGBTQ+ rights around the country, I'm thrilled that Senate Democrats stood strong to deliver this urgent, important legislation."

"As a physician, I was proud to lead on the Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill. This bill represents a critical step in protecting Oregonians' right to reproductive and gender-affirming health care. Medical decisions should always be between a patient and their provider, not politicians," **said Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D-NW Portland).** "Access to full scope reproductive healthcare is crucial for many religious traditions, which is often overlooked in these debates."

The Reproductive Health and Access to Care Bill will now go to the House of Representatives for a concurrence vote. If passed, it will head to the Governor for her approval.

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