

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
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OCFW Testimony in support of HB 3391
March 15, 2017, 3 pm, HR E
House Committee on Health Care

Chair Greenlick, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and Representatives Alonso Leon, Buehler, Hack, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer and Malstrom:

The Oregon Commission for Women, in its role of advocate for the women of Oregon, strongly supports HB 3391: Reproductive Health Equity Act of 2017.

Over the recent years, thousands of Oregonians face significant barriers to a better health and to receive a full range of reproductive health services. All Oregonian women should have the opportunity to make the choices that allow them to live a long, healthy life and to make the right choices for their reproductive health needs regardless of their income, where they born, where they live, their gender identity and type of insurance. The Reproductive Health Equity Act provides opportunities to thousands of Oregonians and establishes an inclusive model for equal treatment in reproductive health services at the state-level by expanding and protecting access to family planning, termination of pregnancy, and post-partum care.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act establishes high quality care for those vulnerable to experiencing negative and harmful effects on their health and well-being, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, women living in rural communities, young women, survivors of intimate partner violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people. The Act is founded on the belief that all Oregonians benefit of health and economic security and ensures that Oregonians receive the full range of preventative reproductive services at zero out-of-pocket costs. With proposed cuts in federal funding for reproductive health services, this bill becomes even more important to protect the health and reproductive rights of all women in Oregon. Significantly, this Act codifies the right to a safe and legal termination of pregnancy in Oregon, at a time where many women may put their health at risk because geographic or economic barriers limit their access to information and healthcare services needed to make decisions over their bodies. This Act establishes the right to healthy bodies as a state guarantee for all Oregonians.

Joining the broad coalition of racial and gender justice, reproductive and community groups in support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act, the Oregon Commission for Women urges an Aye vote.

Dr. Doris Cancel-Tirado, Commissioner, OCFW

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