



THE
BUS
PROJECT

March 15, 2017

Chair Greenlick, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Bus Project, I respectfully request your support for the Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB 3391). The Bus Project works to make democracy accessible to all citizens by engaging and mobilizing young and new voters around the political process. We believe democracy is strengthened when all people can play a meaningful role in civic life. When you lack access to basic services such as health coverage, civic engagement becomes difficult. This is why the Bus Project endorses HB 3391, because we believe meaningful access to a range of essential reproductive health services make healthy communities and healthy communities are essential to civic life and a thriving democracy.

With the imminent repeal of the Affordable Care Act, hundreds of thousands of Oregonians could lose no-cost-share coverage for essential reproductive health services. When the cost of care must first come out of a high deductible, these services can be unaffordable and inaccessible for many. This is particularly problematic for women seeking abortion — a time-sensitive and critical service that 1 in 3 women access by the time they are 45.

Furthermore, 48,000 women of reproductive age in Oregon are categorically excluded from Medicaid due to their citizenship status and are prohibited from purchasing insurance with their own money on the Exchange. These women have coverage that ends immediately after labor and delivery, leaving them without care during the postpartum period, a pivotal time for both mom and baby.

Finally, transgender and gender-nonconforming Oregonians need access to services often categorized as “women’s health care,” including gender-specific cancer screenings. However, procedural barriers hinder access to this necessary and lifesaving care.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act establishes comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services — including family planning, abortion and postpartum care — for all Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance. Restrictions on reproductive health care can have profoundly harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care. This legislation ensures that all Oregonians are able to decide if and when they have children based on what’s best for them and their family’s circumstances.

The Bus Project supports HB 3391 because we know that Oregonians need access to full reproductive health coverage for all families to thrive, for a stronger economy and for a healthier state. We hope that you will join us in support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

Sincerely,
Daisy Quiñonez
Program Organizer