

7/1/17 From the desk
of Sheri Malstrom
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Clinicians Urge a YES Vote on House Bill 3391B

As Oregon clinicians, we are writing to express our support for Oregon House Bill 3391B: The Reproductive Health Equity Act. As providers, we see every day the need for women and people who can become pregnant to have access to timely, safe and affordable reproductive health care, and this bill will address the inequities in coverage that create the greatest barriers to care.

"Restrictions on reproductive health care physically, socially and financially harm patients with profound public health consequences. Patients especially vulnerable to these restrictions are those who already face barriers to high quality care including low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people. HB 3391 ensures every Oregonians can access the full range of reproductive care they deserve."

— Dr. Anne Toledo, Northwest Permanente

This Act ensures that all Oregonians have access to a full range of preventive reproductive services by codifying them in state law without cost sharing. It also expands access to 48,000 women of reproductive age in Oregon who have been categorically excluded from Medicaid or coverage through the state exchange.

"Countless studies have shown that preventive medicine is an effective way to reduce overall healthcare costs. Early treatment can help prevent serious, lifelong health problems. If an Oregonian has access to affordable reproductive health care, they are more likely to seek care for treatable problems like an STD or a lump in their breast."

— Dr. James Newhall, Downtown Women's Center Inc.

Medical providers know that Oregonians need access to the full range of reproductive coverage in order for all families to thrive and to ensure that certain patients are not excluded from crucial health care services.

"As an obstetrician-gynecologist with 17 years of experience caring for women, I work every day to keep women healthy. Through my experiences working internationally in Africa and Asia, I have seen firsthand the complications that occur when abortion is inaccessible. Every single woman needs the right to decide for herself — in consultation with her medical provider, her family and her faith — whether or not to carry her pregnancy to term. When these decisions are taken away from her, she is unable to get the health care she requires to remain healthy and to protect her future and family."

— Dr. Paula Bednarek, Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette