



**Testimony of Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director
In Support of HB 3391
House Committee on Health Care
March 15, 2017**

Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

At the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon¹, we believe everyone in Oregon, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance, should have equal access to the full range of reproductive health services and the freedom to choose if and when they should have children.

Every Oregonian should be able to make informed, meaningful decisions about reproduction free from intrusion by the government. Decisions about contraception, marriage, and child-rearing are among the most intimate and important decisions a person will ever make. Since its inception in 1920, the ACLU has recognized that personal privacy and reproductive freedoms are among our most important constitutional liberties. The ACLU was the first national organization to argue for abortion rights in the U.S. Supreme Court, and has continued to vigorously defend those rights since 1973, when the Court recognized the right to choose in *Roe v. Wade*.

Yet we know that it is not enough to merely prohibit government interference, because financial barriers that limit access also limit choice. People struggling to make ends meet should not have to make the decision about whether or not to become pregnant or to end a pregnancy based on how they get their health coverage or how much money they have—the decision should instead be based on what is best for the individual and their family's circumstances.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act will ensure equity in access to reproductive health care—and therefore equity in choice—for all Oregonians. It will do this by guaranteeing that all Oregonians receive the full range of preventive reproductive health services at zero out-of-pocket cost, by filling gaps in reproductive health coverage for those categorically excluded from health programs due to citizenship status, by prohibiting discrimination in reproductive health care, and by assuring access to abortion without government interference.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

¹ The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights. We have more than 37,000 members in the State of Oregon, and that number is growing as we speak.