

Chair Salinas Members of the House Health Care Committee,

For the record my name is Felisa Hagins I am the Political Director for the Service Employees International Union SEIU Local 49. SEIU is an 85,000 member union in Oregon and SW Washington and a 2 million person union nationally. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families.

SEIU has been working on access to quality affordable health care for our members and their families for over 100 years. Part of that work is organizing health care workers to have a voice in patient care, advocating for funding for critical health care services like Medicaid and Medicare and making sure that patients can afford the care they receive. Our union is also an incredible diverse union representing many janitors and health care workers who are green card holding immigrants in the United States.

I'm asking for your support for HB 2049 so no immigrant family has to chose between affordable health care and US citizenship.

In 2018 SEIU worked with community organizations, labor unions and hospitals to expand Oregon's charity care policy and create clarity and consistency. SEIU agrees that charity care is the payer of last resort for patients. Hospitals, clinics, community organizations and labor unions should work to make sure that all Oregonians have access to quality affordable health care and hospitals in Oregon are doing that by signing Oregonians up for the Oregon Health Plan. This work has been critical in Oregon achieving 94% coverage

However, nationally there have been changes in the law regarding access to Medicaid for immigrant families. The administrations public charge rule gives low income immigrants a choice about their future citizenship or access to healthcare. HB 2049 prevents hospitals and non-profit clinics from requiring Medicaid enrollment before accessing charity care in Oregon. We still believe that charity care should be the payer of last resort and that all of us should commit to enrolling people who need health care in long term insurance like the Oregon Health Plan.

HB 2049 is supported by a large group of community advocates, hospitals, and labor unions. I'm happy to answer any questions.



3536 SE 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97266  
www.seiu49.org  
Phone: 503-236-4949