



April 26, 2021

Oregon State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Health Care  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 2360A – Hospital Financial Assistance**

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

On behalf of Oregon’s community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) supports access to health care for all people in Oregon. Oregon’s hospitals and health systems work every day to provide care for those who need it and ensure patients have access to programs that provide critical services.

The previous federal administration proposed regulations that discouraged legal immigrants from enrolling in medical assistance, nutrition aid or housing supports that address the social determinants of health. OAHHS strongly opposed these threats to access. Medicaid provides comprehensive and coordinated care that goes beyond hospital services and includes dental health, behavioral health, and prescription drug coverage. Expanding Medicaid and standing up coordinated care organizations has been a cornerstone in Oregon’s health system transformation efforts to ensure people have access to care. Hospital financial assistance is not intended to replace government or commercial coverage, as such, Oregon’s hospitals are key entities for getting people enrolled in Medicaid as a part of patient financial assistance services. HB 2360A includes an important provision that does not preclude a hospital from educating patients about the benefits of Medicaid and assisting people in applying should they choose to do.

While enrolling people in coverage is our collective goal, hospitals recognize and understand the risk for individuals and families seeking permanent residence status. With that, OAHHS supports HB 2360A’s intent to ensure patients and families are provided essential services. In addition, we ask the Oregon Health Authority to monitor for any unintended consequences of this bill - such as an increase in the number of people who are not impacted by public charge, choosing not to enroll in Medicaid and relying on hospital financial assistance as the primary source of coverage. If HB 2360A does lead to unintended consequences in the broader uninsured rate, OAHHS will work with stakeholders to bring forward policy solutions.

Thank you,

Sean Kolmer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Kolmer", written in a cursive style.

Senior Vice President of Policy and Strategy  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems