
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon

May 6, 2021

Chair Prusak, Vice-Chairs Salinas and Hayden, and Members of the House Committee on Health Care,

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon (PPAO) respectfully requests the committee's support of SJR 12, which proposes to amend the Oregon Constitution to make access to cost-effective, clinically-appropriate and affordable health care a right available to every Oregon resident.

A significant portion of Planned Parenthood's patients rely on Medicaid for critical preventive health care services. Medicaid is a vital source of health coverage and a major funder of reproductive health services nationally. While Medicaid is a critical source of health care for many, there remain significant gaps in health coverage for other vulnerable groups, including those who: do not qualify for or are not enrolled in OHP; are not covered through their employers; are unable to afford coverage through the ACA's market place; or are ineligible for Medicaid due to their documentation status. Even families who are insured are finding the cost of health care increasingly out of reach.

Racism and discriminatory public policy have created systemic and economic barriers that have resulted in disproportionately higher numbers of women of color and LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals being enrolled in the Medicaid program. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected BIPOC people and both laid bare and exacerbated many historic inequities, has made the importance of universal access to health care even more clear.

PPAO supports SJR 12 as it would move Oregon toward universal health care access. We urge you to support SJR 12 to ensure that every Oregonian regardless of race, income, immigration status, or gender identity can access the health care they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon