



March 13th, 2025

RE: Senate Committee on Health Care Hearing on SB 539

Dear Chair Patterson Vice-Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, we are writing to support SB 539 which protects Oregonians from surprise hospital facility fees.

OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of nine regional health equity coalitions across Oregon.

OHEA believes that Oregonians should not have to be forced to pick between paying for medical care over their basic needs. Our communities are being affected in the tri-county area and the rest of the state. We have to do better and have more transparency when it comes to hospital facility fees.

In 2024, more than [three in four](#) Oregonians had a hard time affording healthcare services because of cost, leading them to delay or go without care completely. Unsurprisingly, Black, Hispanic, low-income communities, and women are the hardest hit. Additionally, [nearly half](#) of adults in Oregon say they would struggle to pay a \$1,500 medical bill.

Facility fees are extra charges for receiving services at hospital-owned facilities - including doctor's offices and clinics off the hospital's main property. These fees regularly exceed the cost of the care provided and often are not completely covered by insurance, turning simple, inexpensive procedures into major - and unexpected - financial setbacks for Oregon families. Oregon currently has no limits or standardization for how much a patient can be charged for a facility fee, meaning these unexpected fees can range between \$15 to even more \$1,500. This is one of the reasons why we support this bill, our community members should have the ability to seek care without any of these surprising costs.

We urge the committee to support SB 539 in order to protect people from hidden facility fees, putting Oregonians above hospital system profits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Oregon Health Equity Alliance