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Chair Salinas, Vice Chairs Hayden and Nosse, members of the committee:

My name is Felisa Hagins and I am offering testimony on behalf of the Service Employees International Union, Local 49 in support of House Bill 2012 and HB 2009. SEIU Local 49 represents more than 13,000 members throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington.

SEIU believes strongly that high quality, affordable health care should be available to all Oregonians, and we have worked with the Legislature to make health insurance coverage available to more people in our state. After the passage of the federal Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medicaid in Oregon, less than 7% of people in Oregon go without health insurance.

Unfortunately, too many people struggle with being under-insured or are unable to afford their high deductibles. Many Oregonians without coverage may be Medicaid eligible through OHP, or may qualify for federal financial assistance.

We support the mechanism for a Medicaid buy-in contained in HB 2012 and HB 2009. Oregonians under 400% FPL, and others in a challenging situations, deserve this important opportunity. The bill ensures monthly premiums are paid by enrollees so there isn't a cost to the state.

Thank you for your time, and we respectfully urge the Committee to vote yes on HB 2012 and HB 2009,

Felisa Hagins
Political Director
SEIU Local 49