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Rep. Andrea Salinas  
House Interim Committee on Healthcare  
900 Court St.  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 4029

Dear Chair Salinas and Committee Members:

Verde writes in strong support of HB 4029 to ensure continued health care coverage for Oregon residents, in particular, but limited to immigrants, who are impacted by the recent Supreme Court ruling upholding the misleading and racist public charge rule. We are deeply concerned that the court's ruling will lead to dis-enrollment from public services and worse, avoidance of utilizing medical services for fear of either themselves or family members being unfairly subjected to un-related immigration policies.

Verde serves communities by building environmental wealth through Social Enterprise, Outreach and Advocacy. We serve low-income, people of color and immigrant communities through our programs and services.

We have heard directly from community members their concern and fear about existing enrollment or future enrollment in needed programs relative to current federal immigration policies. While the public charge rule applies to very few persons, the Trump Administration's cynical move may have a broader impact by creating undue fear and concern, thus chilling our community members' ability to secure needed services.

Access to healthcare is a critical human right and should not be infringed by a person's legal status. Our community members health and well-being are critical to our ability to deliver our mission and to creating the kinds of positive changes in our communities we are thus able to deliver. Having to avoid or have undue concern about the ability to access healthcare is untenable and we agree with the bill's direction remove barriers.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on this legislation.

Warm regards,

Tony DeFalco  
Executive Director