

Providence Health & Services
4400 N.E. Halsey St., Building 2
Suite 599
Portland, OR 97213
www.providence.org/oregon



February 6, 2020

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 4029 – Hospital Financial Assistance

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the committee:

At Providence Health & Services, our values call us to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable and to respect the inherent dignity of every individual. Providence has a long tradition of compassionate care and dedication to our communities. Financial assistance is integral to our Mission as a not-for-profit Catholic health care organization, and this is one of the many ways Providence demonstrates our commitment to serving Oregon families.

Last year, when the Trump Administration proposed regulations that would limit the ability of legal immigrants to adjust or extend their immigration status or gain full citizenship based on their receipt of public benefits – Providence voiced our strong opposition with the policy. We believe that any efforts to discourage legal immigrants, who pay taxes, from enrolling in health benefits for which they qualify is wrong. These policies deny them the support they deserve and contradict our efforts to transform health care.

Although participation in public benefit programs does not impact the public charge regulations equally, the rule is complicated and confusing. Its mere existence has created fear among immigrant families. We need to do everything we can to support these families and ensure they have access to the care they need.

For this reason, Providence does not require Medicaid enrollment or applications in order for qualified patients to receive financial assistance, and we support legislative efforts to expand this practice to hospitals statewide. This legislation is important, because patients need to know they can access care and get support if resources are an issue.

Providence Health & Services believes health is a fundamental human right. As leaders we ask you to join us in protecting access to medically necessary services for Oregon's immigrant population and support House Bill 4029.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Vance", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Lisa Vance
Chief Executive, Oregon Region
Providence Health & Services