



HB 2081

Chair Prusak, members of the House Healthcare Committee.

My name is Dan Torres and I am with Oregon AFSCME Council 75. Oregon AFSCME represents over 30,000 workers across the state from non-profit to local government to state public employees. Oregon AFSCME has been engaged in healthcare conversations from many sides. From trying to curb costs for members to working to make care more affordable for all Oregonians. Oregon AFSCME is committed to the idea that healthcare should be both accessible and affordable for everyone.

I am submitting testimony today in support of HB 2081 with adoption of the -1 amendments. The -1 one amendments represent a step towards accountability when it comes to adoption of advanced value based payment. As the cost of healthcare continues to grow in our state, advanced value based payments provide a path to reduce costs in a net beneficial manner. The move towards this payment structure comes out of the work of advocacy groups and stakeholders in a collaborative effort but we need to ensure everyone is a part of the transition.

In order to reach the goals of better health, better care and lower costs it is important that HB 2081 includes language that reinforces and strengthens the work that has been done to move towards a value based payment system. We see the rising cost of healthcare in our members coverage and hear stories of Oregonians struggling with costs from our members who work in this area. HB 2081 with the -1 amendments is the right approach to addressing this increasing cost and needs to be moved so we can continue to think transformatively about addressing the increasing costs.

In a year marked by a global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we ensure all Oregonians have access to healthcare but we also know access doesn't matter if individuals can't afford to actually use that coverage. This is why Oregon AFSCME has been an engaged partner in these discussions from healthcare costs to prescription drug rates to more affordability.

We urge the committee to support HB 2081 with the -1 amendments to continue the work towards transitioning and creating accountability in the process to ensure we are all moving in the same direction.

Thank you for your time.

Dan Torres
Political Coordinator
Oregon AFSCME