



February 13, 2024

Chair Nosse, Co-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and Members of the Committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am writing today on behalf of Oregon AFSCME Council 75 to express concerns to HB 4139. Oregon AFSCME represents over 37,000 workers across the State of Oregon in both the public and private sectors. Our membership ranges from the professionals and techs at OHSU to the folks working in local governments that carry out essential services like our own city here in Salem.

We are proud of the work that our members in the healthcare industry perform and appreciate legislation that also promotes to ensure patients receive quality care that is up to the highest of standards. HB 4139 eliminates the certificate of need (CN) requirements for several types of healthcare facilities which raises major concerns for us. The current certificate of need process is critical that also includes basic quality safeguards so that when Oregonians seek care there is some reasonable expectation of quality.

The Oregon Health Authority cites that, "In an effort to control the rapidly escalating costs of health care through planning and regulation, most states, including Oregon, have Certificate of Need ("CN") programs."¹ We do not believe that stripping away this requirement would create any positive change, rather, we urge the proponents of this bill to work with stakeholders to identify existing regulatory burdens for providers that can help drive down the cost of care while at the same time making a meaningful investment in the workforce who carries out these services.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this bill and urge the committee to carefully consider the devastating changes that could happen if HB 4139.

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar
Political Coordinator
Oregon AFSCME

¹ Certificate of Need. Public Health Division: Oregon Health Authority.
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PROVIDERPARTNERRESOURCES/HEALTHCAREPROVIDERSFACILITIES/CERTIFICATENEED/Pages/index.aspx>