



OREGON ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY**

3/11/2025

RE: Senate Committee on Health Care Hearing on SB 539

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB 539, which helps protect Oregonians from being surprised by health system “facility fees” for care delivered in outpatient clinics. The cost of health care is already high, and patient costs are confusing. Patients have to consider premiums and out-of-pocket costs when they look for a health insurance plan, and then must find care providers that are covered by their health insurance plan. In that process, there is currently no way to know which care providers will charge such fees.

We believe facility fees have inappropriately crept into outpatient (clinic-based) care for too many Oregonians, simply because in recent years health systems have purchased clinics of all kinds. When health systems take ownership of an existing clinic, it becomes possible to collect “facility fees” like the ones charged by hospitals, even when the location has not changed, and the building is not connected physically to a hospital. There is no way to ‘comparison shop’ around this.

This legislation will limit the types of care such fees can be added to, and the settings where such fees can be charged. It will also require that clinics clearly identify and describe why facility fees are charged at the time of scheduling, and on any bills. This is a common-sense way to inform patients and help make health care more affordable, and it advances work already done to make it easier for consumers to understand where their dollars are going. We urge you to vote yes on SB539.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Betsy Boyd-Flynn  
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