

March 12, 2025

RE: Senate Committee On Health Care Hearing on SB539

Dear Chair Patterson and Members of the Committee,

As physicians and members of the Committee to Protect Health Care, we write to express our strong support for SB539, which addresses the issue of surprise "facility fees" that burden Oregonians seeking outpatient care. As doctors committed to protecting and expanding access to affordable, transparent health care, we believe this legislation is essential to safeguarding patients from unexpected costs that can create financial hardship and erode trust in our health care system.

When large hospital systems acquire smaller independent practices and clinics, patients who have been going to the same doctor's office for 30 years may suddenly be charged with hundreds of dollars of hidden fees because of a new legal affiliation rather than any change in services, location, or capability of the provider.

These extra fees can turn simple, inexpensive outpatient procedures, such as blood work or routine check-ups, into major and unexpected financial setbacks, forcing some patients to avoid necessary treatments, delaying early interventions and preventive care. This hurts the health and wellbeing of our communities in the long run.

At hospitals, facility fees purportedly pay for maintenance of hospital facilities. These fees are not pertinent to small clinics and practices. Outpatient procedures performed at small physician practices and clinics are generally less expensive. These services are inherently more straightforward and don't require hospital admission, cutting many of the costs that come with an overnight stay or a complicated treatment.

As physicians, we stand for providing quality care for our patients and communities at a reasonable price. The imposition of hospital facility fees undermines these core principles.

We respectfully ask for your support in our call to preserve the health of our communities and protect patients from these unnecessary fees.

Respectfully,



Rob Davidson, MD, MPH  
Executive Director  
Committee to Protect Health Care

Co-Signed,

Betty Acker, MD; Obstetrics and Gynecology (Eugene)  
Brooke Bachelor, DO; Family Medicine (Portland)  
Bronwyn Baz, MD; Pediatric Hospital Medicine (Portland)  
Jennifer Blechman, MD; Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
(Bend)  
Robert Bridenbaugh, MD; Psychiatry (Portland)  
Christine A Bugas, DO; Emergency Medicine (Portland)  
Beryl Burns, MD; Pediatrics (Lake Oswego)  
Michael Chen, MD; Family Medicine (Portland)  
Leslie Colip, MD; Internal Medicine (Bend)

James Cook, MD; Internal Medicine (Jacksonville)  
Karen Douek, MD; Nephrology (Portland)  
Robert Dreisin, MD; Pulmonary Medicine (Portland)  
Michael Duey, MD; Anesthesiology (Happy Valley)  
Marcia Dunham, MD; Internal Medicine (Portland)  
Karen Erde, MD; Family Medicine (Portland)  
Clyde Farris, MD; Surgery (West Linn)  
Glenn Gailis, MD; Family Medicine (Klamath Falls)  
Russell Geoffrey, MD; Psychiatry (Eugene)  
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