

**Testimony Submitted by
Angela Donley, Policy Analyst
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Senate Committee on Health Care**

March 13, 2025

Regarding: Support for SB 539

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Angela Donley. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of SB 539.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) envisions a vibrant future where all Oregonians live with dignity and abundance and experience health, joy, and economic opportunity. We work collaboratively across policy and advocacy, community engagement, and the law, to realize a more just and equitable Oregon where people come first. For too long, flawed systems and policies have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing significant harm. Informed by consumer insights, OCJ works to make financial and business transactions reliably safe and supports Oregonians in knowing and exercising their consumer rights.

Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right—every Oregonian deserves to receive equitable care without bearing the burden of hidden fees and unexpected charges.

In 2024, nearly three in four Oregonians (74%) struggled to afford healthcare services due to high costs, forcing many to delay or forgo necessary care.¹ When hidden medical fees, often called facility fees, are added on top of medical expenses, even routine procedures can become costly, unanticipated financial challenges for Oregon families.

¹ Healthcare Value Hub. [Oregon Survey Respondents Struggle to Afford High Health Care Costs: Worry about Affording Health Care in the Future; Support Government Action Across Party Lines](#). August 2024

Currently, Oregon lacks regulations or standards on the amount a patient can be charged for a facility fee, meaning these fees can vary widely—from just a few dollars to thousands of dollars.

Senate Bill 539 protects consumers by banning hospital-owned facilities from charging facility fees for specific services, holding these hospitals accountable for any violations, and requiring that they disclose their fees before providing services to enhance transparency.

Thank you for your consideration and your service in building the future that Oregonians deserve.