



525 NE OREGON ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97232

SEIU Local 49 represents the health care providers and frontline staff at Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette and Planned Parenthood Southwestern Oregon. Our members are providers, nurses, clinic assistants, and support workers who deliver essential reproductive and preventive health care in communities across Oregon.

Workforce stability is inseparable from patient access to care. Our members provide care to patients from all 36 counties, regardless of income, identity, or zip code. For many Medicaid patients, low income and those in rural or medically underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only reliable source of reproductive health care. When funding is unstable, it is not just programs that are at risk—it is the workforce patients depend on. Many Planned Parenthood clinics already struggle to maintain adequate staffing.

Funding uncertainty drives burnout, turnover, and staffing instability. HR1 has struck providers like Planned Parenthood from Medicaid funding. This threatens the survival of clinics that Oregonians rely on. Health care workers cannot provide safe, high-quality care when their clinics face repeated funding cliffs, short-term fixes, or threats of closure. Uncertainty about whether clinics will remain open makes it harder to retain experienced staff, recruit new providers, and maintain continuity of care for patients.

Our members see the consequences of instability every day. When staffing levels are strained, patients wait longer for care, follow-up becomes harder, and preventive services are delayed. This increases health risks and ultimately drives up health care costs. Stable funding allows clinics to plan, staff appropriately, and deliver care safely and efficiently.

Planned Parenthood providers and staff deliver critical Medicaid-funded care at scale. Every year, our members provide care to tens of thousands of patients—most of whom rely on Medicaid or the Oregon Health Plan—including STI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, contraception, and HPV vaccinations. These services depend on a trained, retained workforce with deep clinical expertise.

Planned Parenthood has exhausted every alternative before turning to the Legislature. Providers and staff have pursued all available legal, regulatory, and administrative options and have worked to operate efficiently and expand care delivery. But philanthropy cannot



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replace a stable Medicaid funding system or provide the long-term predictability needed to retain a skilled health care workforce.

Temporary funding solutions are not enough for workers or patients.

Last year's emergency funding was essential, but it was temporary and insufficient to support long-term staffing and workforce planning. Health care workers need stability to remain in their jobs, build careers, and continue serving Oregon communities.

HB 4127 provides a responsible, workforce-stabilizing path forward.

HB 4127 creates a clear and reliable funding structure that allows Planned Parenthood health centers to retain experienced staff, recruit new providers, and maintain continuity of care for Medicaid patients and all Oregonians.

Oregonians should not have their health care workforce caught in political crossfire.

Planned Parenthood is an essential, irreplaceable provider. If health centers close, no other system can absorb the patients—or replace the experienced workforce that delivers this care. HB 4127 protects patients, supports health care workers, and preserves Oregon's public health infrastructure.

SEIU Local 49 urges support for HB 4127. Protecting access to care means protecting the workers who provide it.

Sincerely,

Matt Swanson

SEIU Oregon State Council