



Oregon Catholic Conference

House Committee on Health Care

House Bill 4127

February 4, 2026

Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE

Director, Oregon Catholic Conference

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Archdiocese of Portland, Diocese of Baker and the Catholic Church in Oregon, strives to transform Oregon into a sanctuary where every human being is deeply valued and protected. We believe in protecting the inherent dignity of every human person, born and unborn. We oppose healthcare initiatives that do not align with our moral vision of respecting the inherent dignity of every human person.

Our vision of the dignity of each human person includes access to health care and medical services. However, HB 4127 is not in alignment with this vision. It permits the Oregon Health Authority to pay organizations that identify themselves as “reproductive health care providers” on a fee-for-service basis, using state funds, for “services.” However, only one organization qualifies under this bill. HB 4127 establishes a single state-funded payment system administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to reimburse Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is the largest purveyor of abortions for which it can no longer seek reimbursement from Medicaid. Using State of Oregon funds to pay for abortions is diametrically opposed to the values of the Archdiocese of Portland, which, through the Oregon Catholic Conference, works to support life from conception to natural death. Services are not defined under the bill; there is no guarantee that the “fee for service” would not be used to reimburse for abortion. The fees would be used for gender-affirming care which we oppose due to its inimical impact on the human person. Even if the fees are not used to pay for abortion but for other services, the reimbursements will make it possible for Planned Parenthood to continue to provide abortion.

Due to the prohibition of federal Medicaid funding going to Planned Parenthood, the Oregon legislature granted \$17.5 million in emergency funding to Planned Parenthood affiliates in 2025. We are concerned about the amount of money that has already been provided to Planned Parenthood and its affiliates. This bill would make it possible for limitless funding for procedures that threaten and destroy human life. When will there be a cap on funding provided to one provider? The majority of Oregon taxpayers oppose having abortions paid for with their tax dollars. When will that reality be acknowledged?

Planned Parenthood and its affiliates claim that they offer other needed services in addition to abortion on demand. So do the many clinics and health care providers across the state which do not provide abortions. This funding should go to them and to organizations that make life-affirming services available, especially in the very underfunded areas of mental health and addiction treatment.

We do not need more subsidies for an organization that destroys life.

Vote NO on House Bill 4127.

Sister Veronica Schueler, FSE