

PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACTION OREGON

Chair Nosse and members of the committee, my name is Christopher Coburn and I'm the executive director of Planned Parenthood Action Oregon, and we are in strong support of HB 4127.

Planned Parenthood providers and Planned Parenthood Action Oregon pursued every available legal, regulatory, and administrative option before coming to the Legislature, including federal and state pathways. While navigating all of those options, providers continued to maximize care delivery, operate efficiently, and fundraise aggressively. In fact, providers have raised **nearly 25 percent of their operating budgets** through solicited donations alone. But donor support cannot replace the entire Medicaid system.

Each year, Planned Parenthood health centers in Oregon provide care at **nearly 100,000 patient visits**, the majority of which are patients covered by the Oregon Health Plan. That care includes cancer screenings, birth control, STI testing and treatment, and preventive services that Oregonians depend on to stay healthy and be able to plan their lives.

Planned Parenthood is an irreplaceable part of Oregon's health care landscape. There is no other provider ready to absorb this volume of care, and no alternative system prepared to step in if access is disrupted, or health centers are forced to close. Planned Parenthood health centers save lives. We know what happens when they are forced to close and patients are left with nowhere to turn. Cancers go undetected, STIs go untreated, birth control is harder to get, and the public health infrastructure of communities breaks down.

HB 4127, with the dash one amendment, is a necessary and reasonable response to a manufactured crisis at the hands of Donald Trump and his backers in Congress. It requires the Oregon Health Authority to pay claims for care delivered to Oregon Health Plan patients so long as Planned Parenthood remains federally defunded. It ensures patient care continues, providers are paid and remain open, and Oregon's health care infrastructure remains intact.

The urgency here is not hypothetical. In an effort to shut down Planned Parenthood and dramatically reduce access to abortion and reproductive health care, anti-abortion members of Congress are ready to act to make the HR 1 "defund" provision permanent. Even though Federal law already prohibits the use of Federal Medicaid dollars for abortion care in almost all cases. HB 4127 offers a responsible, accountable path forward that protects patient access to care they need, supports a critical safety-net provider, and reflects the values Oregonians expect from their health care system.

Sincerely,

Christopher Coburn, MPH  
Executive Director



Planned Parenthood Action Oregon