

Submitter: Julea Bartch
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4127

Hello Chair Nosse and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Julea Bartch. I am a resident of House District 33, and I am here in strong support of House Bill 41-27.

As someone who works multiple part-time jobs to make ends meet, I don't have access to employer-provided health benefits and rely on the Oregon Health Plan.

At the turn of the new year, I started experiencing unusual abdominal pain and cramping. Unsure what to do, I turned to Planned Parenthood. I was able to make an appointment at the Northeast Portland health center and be seen within a week.

While I generally consider myself politically-informed, I didn't think to consider what HR 1 might have done to impact my access to a provider like Planned Parenthood. At the time, I just knew I needed immediate care and trusted that Planned Parenthood would be a safe place to find it.

From the moment I walked in, I was met with immense warmth—from the receptionist to my intake nurse and provider. It turned out that my IUD of 2 years had dislodged into my cervix and needed to be removed.

Getting off birth control is not a viable option for me, so I opted for a new IUD. For those who don't know, this can be a painful procedure, but my provider at Planned Parenthood uniquely offered mild sedation and helped ease my anxiety around the procedure. They also informed me I could come back — at any time — for an ultrasound to check the IUD is still properly in place and, as such, functional. From beginning to end, I felt fully supported by my Planned Parenthood providers.

I more recently learned that Planned Parenthood has been defunded at the national level, yet providers here in Oregon have continued to serve OHP patients without interruption since July 4th. To me, this reveals a sincere dedication to the health and well-being of Oregonians, especially those like me—who work multiple jobs, are on OHP and nonetheless deserve access to timely healthcare.

House Bill 41-27 is essential to ensure that Oregonians on OHP, like me, remain empowered to visit their provider of choice for preventative and reproductive healthcare. Getting access to the quality and variety of care offered by Planned Parenthood shouldn't be a privilege that is only afforded to those with private health

insurance.

I urge this committee to pass House Bill 41-27, so Planned Parenthood will continue to be reimbursed for the care they provide to me and other OHP patients.