



525 NE OREGON ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97232

February 5, 2026

To: House Committee on Health Care

Fr: Matt Swanson, SEIU Oregon State Council

Re: HB 4040

SEIU Local 49 Testimony in Support of HB 4040's Amendment Regarding Presumptive Eligibility for Hospital Financial Assistance

SEIU Local 49 submits this testimony in support of the amendment to ORS 442.615(2)(c) proposed in HB 4040.

Our state's presumptive eligibility requirements, established in 2023, created a new requirement for nonprofit hospitals to screen patients for financial assistance before billing. Since the law took effect in July 2024, many hospitals have reported implementation challenges with the presumptive screening tools available to them. HB4040 proposes reasonable changes designed to address these challenges, while still ensuring Oregon will drive the some of the highest standards for hospital financial assistance in the nation.

Importantly, HB 4040 does not roll back Oregon's commitments to strong charity care protections. Under this bill:

- All uninsured patients will continue to receive presumptive screening.
- All Medicaid patients will continue to receive presumptive screening.
- Financial assistance policies will continue to apply not only to hospital services, but also to hospital-owned clinics where many patients access routine care.
- Hospitals may continue to rely on existing patient data, such as participation in SNAP, WIC, TANF, free school meal programs, and other income-tested supports.
- Hospitals must still screen patients before sending them to collections.
- All patients under 400 percent FPL will continue to qualify for charity care through the traditional application process.
- Hospitals must still provide easy, one-click access to financial assistance information online and offer mobile-friendly digital applications.
- Hospitals must continue granting financial assistance for nine months without requiring patients to reapply and must continue to refund patients who were eligible at the time of service but paid before receiving assistance.



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With these protections intact, Oregon will continue to have one of the strongest charity care laws in the country.

We believe these changes to HB4040 are reasonable and strike a needed balance that is responsive to the moment, and we urge your support.