



# PRESS RELEASE

## OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

---

For Immediate Release  
April 8, 2021

For more information, contact:  
Hannah Kurowski  
Hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

### **House Breaks Down Barriers to Health Care for Vulnerable and Undocumented Oregonians**

*House Bill 2360 will eliminate major roadblocks, providing affordable and necessary access to health care for Oregonians*

SALEM, OR— In a widely bipartisan vote, the Oregon House today passed [House Bill 2360](#), which will remove certain barriers to receiving health care for people, including undocumented Oregonians, living in the state.

The bill would ensure patients would no longer need to apply for Medicaid, in light of the Supreme Court’s “public charge” decision, which prevents some of Oregon’s most vulnerable residents from seeking timely, cost-effective treatment.

“HB 2360 protects undocumented immigrants, so that they do not need to worry about choosing between accessing affordable health care and a future path to citizenship,” said [Rep. Wlnsvey Campos \(D-Aloha\)](#). “Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to send the message that anyone can access affordable health care. This is a human rights issue.”

Currently, in order to be tax-exempt, non-profit hospitals and health systems are required to provide Charity Care to individuals who need health care, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay.

Under current law, these health systems are allowed to require patients to apply for or enroll in the Oregon Health Plan before receiving Charity Care. Because of the federal Trump Era “public charge” rule, this could jeopardize a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

House Bill 2360 fixes this problem by ensuring that hospitals cannot require OHP enrollment prior to delivering Charity Care.

Despite President Joe Biden's reversal of many of Trump's inhumane anti-immigrant policies, there is still much work to do to ensure undocumented immigrants and other vulnerable populations throughout Oregon can access critical public services they need without fear of repercussions from the federal government.

HB 2360 now heads to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

###