

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Kieran Chase, Basic Rights Oregon, 971-901-8668

Michael Cavaola, Compassion & Choices, 480-622-4427

Kalpana Krishnamurthy, Forward Together, (503) 245-5563

Emily McLain, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, 971-221-9778

Joint Statement Issued by ACLU of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Compassion & Choices, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon and SEIU Local 49

Portland, OR. – This week, Oregon’s U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, along with Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3), weighed in on a proposed affiliation that was recently announced between Providence Plan Partners and CareOregon.

As the state’s leading advocates of affirming, quality care for women, transgender and gender-nonconforming people, and end-of life care. ACLU of Oregon, Basic Rights Oregon, Compassion & Choices, Forward Together, NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, and SEIU Local 49 have issued the following statement:

“Oregon has long been a leader in ensuring that everyone has access to the full range of medical services they need to stay healthy no matter who we are, where we live, or how much money we make. We’re proud to be a state where quality, affirming care for women, transgender and gender-nonconforming people is safeguarded, and where access to all end of life medical care is available.

Yet for years, Providence has been allowed to put religious views ahead of patient health, limiting access to the full range of care and impacting our ability to make personal decisions with providers that is best for our health. It’s clear that this corporation is at odds with Oregon values and we are deeply concerned that a merger with CareOregon will only hurt Medicaid patients who already face barriers to healthcare.

We applaud our elected leaders for doing the right thing and standing up for our communities at a time when we need it the most. We are facing the greatest health and economic crisis of our time when no Oregonian should have to worry about whether they will be denied or restricted care.

As leading organizations who serve Oregonians at the heart of this deal, we are unified in our opposition to

this deal. We will not rest until access to care is guaranteed for all of us at risk.”

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About ACLU of Oregon

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing and defending civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 32,000 members and supporters statewide.

About Basic Rights Oregon

Basic Rights Oregon is the state’s largest nonprofit lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer advocacy group. Basic Rights Oregon works to ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Oregonians experience equality by building a broad and inclusive politically powerful movement, shifting public opinion and achieving policy victories. For more information, visit basicrights.org.

About Compassion & Choices

Compassion & Choices is the nation's largest, oldest and most active nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to improving and expanding healthcare options for the end of life. For more information, visit: www.CompassionAndChoices.org.

About Forward Together

Forward Together transforms culture and policy to work for everyone nationwide. Since its founding in 1989, Forward Together has continually fought to dismantle the ways that society marginalizes people based on race, sexuality, and gender. Today they build courage and foster connection among a multi-racial community of changemakers to secure the rights, recognition, and resources all families need to thrive.

About NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon

NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon develops and sustains a constituency that uses the political process to guarantee every person who can become pregnant the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion. For more information, visit prochoiceoregon.org.

About SEIU Local 49

SEIU Local 49 represents more than 15,000 healthcare and building service workers, including licensed practical nurses (LPN's), nursing assistants, professional and technical workers, pharmacists, dietary aides, and housekeepers in Oregon and Southwest Washington. We are a member of Service Employees International Union, the nation's largest union of healthcare workers.