



HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF OREGON 2024

SESSION ROUNDUP

In the 82nd Oregon Legislature, a “short session,” lawmakers were focused on finding bipartisan solutions for critical issues like housing, homelessness, behavioral health and Oregon’s addiction crisis. While two-year budgets are set in odd-year sessions, the Legislature made a significant investment in the DSH 3 program, helping preserve access to care for Oregonians who are uninsured or on Medicaid.

BY THE NUMBERS

In the 2024 legislative session, the hospital association:

- ✓ **Tracked more than 70 bills** that could have impacted hospitals
- ✓ **Testified nine times** at House or Senate committee hearings at the Capitol
- ✓ **Successfully defeated two bills** that would have adversely affected hospitals
- ✓ **Successfully advocated for \$92 million** in DSH 3 funding **and nearly \$1 million** for the state’s public guardianship program

POLICY AGENDA



Our priorities

As the collective voice for our state’s 61 community hospitals, the hospital association continues to work at advancing policies that address hospitals’ current and long-term needs to sustain a health care system generations of Oregonians can rely on.



Protecting access to care

The hospital association played a leading role in advocating for legislation that helps ensure lower-income and rural patients can access urgently needed medications. The bill—HB 4028—successfully passed out of the Joint Committee on Rules. Though it ultimately died, the bill helped lay the groundwork for further discussion in the legislative sessions to come. The hospital association also successfully advocated for nearly \$1 million in funding to increase hospitalized patients’ access to public guardians.



Supporting hospital staff

Working collaboratively with lawmakers, the Oregon Nurses Association, district attorneys, law enforcement and other groups, the hospital association worked hard to negotiate and advocate for HB 4088, a bill that, among other provisions, would make an assault on a health care worker a felony and create a grant program for hospitals to help fund workplace violence prevention efforts and related workforce and construction equipment costs. Though the bill didn’t pass, it did make it further in the legislative process than similar bills from prior sessions, helping advance the conversation about workplace safety for health care workers.



Stabilizing hospital finances

DSH 3 supports Oregon hospitals that serve a high proportion of low-income and uninsured patients. The hospital association was able to successfully secure \$92 million in funding for this essential program, ensuring vulnerable populations can continue accessing vital health services.