

During the 83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly, lawmakers navigated a fast-paced session shaped by long-term budget uncertainty, debates over the state's response to a variety of federal policies, and political maneuvering over the referendum vote on a transportation funding package. The Hospital Association of Oregon engaged on a significant number of the more than 300 bills introduced, advocating for the passage of legislation that supports Oregon hospitals and the patients they serve.

## In the 2026 legislative session, the hospital association:



### Tracked

more than 30% of all bills introduced



### Testified

24 times



### Successfully advocated

for priority bills

## ✓ Policy priorities

In a challenging environment, the Hospital Association of Oregon secured wins on key priorities aiming to strengthen Oregon's health care system and support hospitals in caring for their communities.

### ✓ Protecting access to health care for patients and communities.

With H.R.1-related cuts looming, the Oregon Health Authority proposed cutting funding for the Disproportionate Share Hospital program, graduate medical education, and Medicaid benefits that help patients recover after hospitalization. Through the legislative process, the hospital association successfully fought to preserve these programs, which also draw millions in federal matching resources at a time when patients, communities, and hospitals most need them.

[Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✓ Protecting the integrity of Oregon's presumptive eligibility law.

The hospital association worked with legislative leadership and partners to advocate for the passage of [HB 4040](#), which preserves patients' access to hospital financial assistance while providing needed implementation relief to hospitals. The bill increases the presumptive eligibility screening threshold to \$1,500 for a single hospital encounter from \$500. The law passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

[Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✗ Fixing the hospital staffing law.

The Oregon Health Authority has made implementation of the hospital staffing law more difficult than it needs to be for hospitals and health care workers. [HB 4074](#) would have returned to the 2023 bill as the coalition originally intended, paused penalties to allow time for OHA to enforce the law as the coalition intended, and made reasonable improvements to support all rural hospitals. While the bill did not pass, legislators have committed to continuing the conversation about how to address challenges with the hospital staffing law in the interim. We thank our members for their engagement this session to raise the challenges with the law and the work ahead. [Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✓ Creating a new licensing pathway for hospitals to seek a rural emergency hospital designation.

The hospital association successfully advocated for [HB 4047](#), which will create the REH designation based on federal standards. This designation will help maintain access to lifesaving emergency hospital services, observation care, and outpatient services in communities that can no longer sustain a critical access hospital or other specified small rural hospitals by creating a new hospital designation.

[Read our testimony](#) and [one-pager](#) here.

# Advocacy in action: Policy wins

## ✔ Successfully supported

### ✔ **HB 4053: Establishes the Emergency Medical Services Program Fund**

Oregon's emergency services are fragmented and workforce challenges are putting care for entire regions at risk. This bill helps streamline supports to address workforce challenges and creates a mechanism for EMS services to receive Rural Health Transformation funds. [Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✔ **HB 4060: Extends the fluorescent lamp ban compliance timeline for certain large facilities**

The hospital association joined a coalition to advocate for policy changes to help hospitals by extending the compliance timeline on this previously passed legislation. [Read the coalition one-pager.](#)

### ✔ **HB 4131: Enables health care providers to establish mobile pharmacies**

This innovative policy aims to help address Oregon's pharmacy deserts by creating new pathways for hospitals and other health care providers to meet their community's pharmacy needs. [Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✔ **SB 1571: Regulates nicotine pouches**

This bill closes loopholes so nicotine pouches are regulated like other smokeless tobacco products, cigarettes, e-cigarettes and vapes, and cigars. [Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✔ **SB 1598: Requires certain health benefit plans to pay for preventive health services and immunizations recommended by the public health officer**

The hospital association joined a coalition advocating for passage of this legislation which allows the Public Health Officer to issue standing orders for immunization recommendations that may be separate from federal guidance. The legislation includes civil and criminal liability and professional disciplinary protections. [Read the coalition one-pager.](#)

## ✎ Successfully amended

### ✔ **SB 1570: Federal response legislation**

Federal response legislation focused on hospitals and federally qualified health centers. The hospital association worked extensively with legislators and stakeholders on SB 1570 to secure amendments and focus on preserving hospitals as safe places to seek care. [Read our testimony here.](#)

## ✘ Successfully defeated

### ✘ **SB 1529: Requires state-regulated providers and insurers to participate in a mediation and arbitration process in certain circumstances**

The hospital association opposed this bill, raising concerns about unintended consequences and unprecedented involvement of the state in provider-insurer negotiations. [Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✘ **HB 4055: Requires a local government, service district, or special government body to notify and submit a report to the state during an information security breach**

This would have negatively impacted district hospitals. [Read our testimony here.](#)

### ✘ **HB 4094: Requires employers to pay out all earned or accrued but unused paid vacation time when employment terminates**

The bill failed due to collective advocacy from business and employer groups.