



**To: House Health Care Committee**  
**From: Jared Mason-Gere, Oregon Education Association**  
**RE: Support for HB 3076**

Chair Salinas and members of the House Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Education Association, representing 45,000 professional educators across Oregon strongly supports HB 3076 to ensure we have clear definitions of a non-profit hospital's mission, and to ensure that hospitals are able to meet the needs of all who require care.

Educators serve a large number of children whose families wrestle with the high costs of health care and in some cases, the fall-out from health care-caused bankruptcies. Health care costs are the most frequent cause of bankruptcy. The distress this causes families manifests in the classroom, as economic instability impedes the ability of students to focus on their studies and can contribute to behavioral and other issues for students.

In a separate issue, nonprofit hospitals receive special tax consideration and are exempt from a number of taxes and fees, many of which would contribute to the base for school funding. At the same time that nonprofit hospitals are not paying the full suite of taxes and fees, the charity care they should be providing in exchange has decreased. This hurts education funding while also reducing the options for Oregon families to receive the care that they need.

HB 3076 would require nonprofit hospitals are providing transparent, consistent charity care that is available in every setting, accessible to every patient, and sufficient to cover Oregonians who need it. It would ensure spending is meeting community needs if a hospital is avoiding contributing to the community through their share of tax contributions.

This bill would achieve a number of important goals in health care policy and improve health care access and reduce financial hardship for the families of Oregon students in communities across the state.

We urge your support for HB 3076.