



February 4, 2021

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Management  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: House Bill 2891 – Health Care Facilities Capacity Requirements**

Chair Evans and members of the House on Veterans and Emergency Management:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) opposes HB 2891. OAHHS strongly supports strategic resiliency planning and emergency preparedness for individuals, communities, and organizations across Oregon, but this bill will not achieve that.

Oregon hospitals currently maintain necessary supplies to continue at normal operations for extended periods of time; this was true prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). As we saw though at the beginning and throughout this PHE, supply use by health care providers has not occurred as it would under normal operations. Instead, the PHE produced extraordinary and unprecedented use of supplies by health care providers that modulated throughout this long-term emergency. A different type of emergency, such as a Cascadia event that produces an earthquake and/or tsunami, or even a different type of disease outbreak, would require entirely distinct usage rates and need for specific supplies. It is for this reason that the requirements of this bill would provide little significance toward advancing emergency preparedness in Oregon or its health care facilities.

We believe that emergency preparedness and resiliency planning are of the utmost importance and we look forward to collaborating on meaningful ways to cultivate that in the state. This bill will not do that; OAHHS opposes HB 2891.

Thank you,

Andi Easton  
Vice President Government Affairs  
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems