

Feb. 13, 2024

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
*Submitted electronically via OLIS*

**RE: House Bill 4089, relating to health care**

Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

Our 61 member hospitals are committed to caring for the communities they serve and to supporting the health care workers who tirelessly and compassionately provide that care. HB 4089 is fundamentally inconsistent with our values, and we oppose it. Below, we outline our concerns with each aspect of the bill. We welcome further discussion after the legislative session about our shared values to support health care workers and health care in communities.

**Predictive scheduling and on-call pay: Legislation on these topics undermines our shared goals reflected in the new hospital staffing law.**

Applying the standards in HB 4089 to on-the-ground hospital staffing will be highly situational. For example, what constitutes “on call” or “on standby” will vary based on the location of the hospital, the needs of the patients within a particular hospital unit, and many other factors. Predictive scheduling may also require a more nuanced approach to ensure a hospital can staff in accordance with patient care needs and its nurse staffing plan. Shared local decision making between frontline staff and hospital leaders is at the heart of the hospital staffing law that just passed in 2023 (HB 2697), and we do not support anything that undermines that. State legislation on these topics will create more complexity and confusion, making it more difficult to implement the new hospital staffing law.

In addition, HB 4089 appears to expand, for hospital nursing staff, the concept of “on call.” We are concerned that such an expansion would further stress the stability of our health care system and inhibit important workforce investments or spending to maintain or improve access to care.

**Financial transparency: Instead of enhancing the public’s understanding of hospitals’ financial health, HB 4089 would layer on requirements that divert resources and focus away from providing vital services to communities.**

Administrative costs like those that would result from the requirements in HB 4089 have been identified repeatedly as a key culprit in the rising cost of health care, with real consequences for patients.

As you know, hospitals are already required to report extensive financial information, which is publicly available on the Oregon Health Authority’s website.<sup>1</sup> Adding more data points will not improve policy discussions or inform the public in making health care choices. Any financial information about a hospital should be interpreted within the context of the hospital’s operations and the implications on patient care and the community it serves, which are not reflected in these numbers. Thus, the cost of the additional reporting proposed in HB 4089 far outweighs any potential benefit.

The Hospital Association of Oregon remains committed to working with you and other stakeholders to support the health care workforce and ensure that our communities have access to excellent hospital care.

Sincerely,



Sean Kolmer  
Executive Vice President, External Affairs  
Hospital Association of Oregon

**About the Hospital Association of Oregon**

Founded in 1934, the Hospital Association of Oregon (HAO) is a mission-driven, nonprofit trade association representing Oregon’s 61 hospitals. Together, hospitals are the sixth largest private employer statewide, employing more than 70,000 employees. Committed to fostering a stronger, safer, more equitable Oregon where all people have access to the high-quality care they need, the hospital association supports Oregon’s hospitals so they can support their communities; educates government officials and the public on the state’s health landscape and works collaboratively with policymakers, community-based organizations and the health care community to build consensus on and advance health care policy benefiting the state’s 4 million residents.

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<sup>1</sup> [Oregon Health Authority : Hospital Reporting Program : Office of Health Analytics : State of Oregon](#)

