



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: -4 amendment to 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. With the -4 amendment, HB 4089 remains fundamentally inconsistent with our values, and we oppose it.

Instead of enhancing the public's understanding of hospitals' financial health, HB 4089-4 would layer on requirements that divert resources and focus away from providing vital services to communities.

Administrative costs like those in the -4 amendment to 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.¹ 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 4089-4 far outweighs any potential benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Kolmer".

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

¹ [Oregon Health Authority : Hospital Reporting Program : Office of Health Analytics : State 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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