

From the desk of:

Dan DeBlase



Vote **NO** on SB 539 to protect access to health care services

Nearly half of Oregon hospitals are on the brink, while others are not stable enough to maintain their facilities. SB 539 would eliminate hospital-based facility fees, further impacting the ability of hospitals to support the services they provide today.

In 2024 alone, Oregon hospitals:

- Cut more than 800 jobs
- Eliminated or downsized services
- Sought partnerships to stabilize operations

SB 539 would make it more difficult for Oregonians to get the care they need.

The bill would remove a critical funding stream for hospital-based facilities that are not located within 250 yards of a hospital. This will create additional financial strain, which could lead to service reductions or even closures. It may also encourage consolidation of services, making it harder for Oregonians in rural or underserved areas to get the care they need.

SB 539 would add new layers of administrative burden for hospitals, further diverting scarce resources away from patient care.

The bill creates new onerous reporting obligations that will require considerable time and expense to implement. Hospitals found out of compliance with any aspect of this complex, onerous process would be subject to significant enforcement actions. It is more important than ever that hospitals put their resources into patient care—not paperwork.

Hospital-based facilities play a unique and critical role in Oregon's health care landscape.

Unlike other types of outpatient providers, they:

- Are held to the same rigorous licensing requirements and standards as hospitals
- Serve patients with complex needs
- Manage emergency transfers within their health system, offering seamless care
- Can be activated during public health emergencies and disasters

Say **NO** to SB 539, which will further destabilize Oregon's health care system at a time when we can least afford it.