



SB 296

Improving Oregonians' access to care by removing barriers to discharge

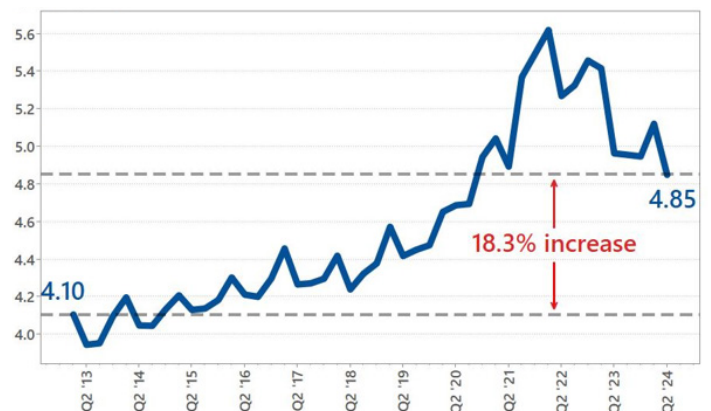
Every day, Oregon's hospitals face a critical challenge—**hundreds of patients ready for discharge have nowhere to go** due to a lack of available facilities or support services.

When patients ready for discharge can't leave, it reduces bed capacity, forces incoming patients to be boarded in emergency departments, and overwhelms staff.

To tackle these challenges, a bipartisan, governor-appointed task force spent nearly a year developing patient-focused solutions. SB 296 provides a path forward to better patient care and a stronger health care system.

Patients are spending more time in hospitals

Average Length of Stay Q1 2013 - Q2 2024



Source: Aprisse Health Insights

Patients are spending more time in Oregon hospitals, delaying their transitions to lower levels of care and limiting bed availability for others who need hospital-level care. Over the past decade, the average length of stay for a hospitalized patient has increased by nearly 20%, a number that has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

SB 296 should help alleviate discharge delays by:

1 **Creating more timely access to long-term services and supports** for patients on the Oregon Health Plan by waiving asset testing.

→ SB 296 should streamline the eligibility process, helping patients move out of hospitals faster. Currently, patients are stuck in hospitals while the state takes up to 45 days to make an eligibility determination for long-term care. The asset verification process is especially difficult for individuals with cognitive impairments, behavioral health conditions, or limited support systems.

2 **Extending benefits for skilled nursing facility-level care** for Oregon Health Plan patients.

→ SB 296 should increase the Oregon Health Plan post-hospital extended care benefit to 100 days from 20 days, enabling long-term care facilities to better support patients and hospitals by creating more placement options.

3 **Increasing base rates** for adult foster care homes.

→ SB 296 should support funding the Oregon Department of Human Services to raise base rates for adult foster homes, expanding capacity for this critical part of the care continuum. Rate increases during the COVID-19 emergency helped boost foster home capacity and facilitate patient discharges, proving that additional resources can make a meaningful difference.

4 **Streamlining eligibility processes and workflows** for long-term services and supports (LTSS).

→ SB 296 should direct the Oregon Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority to track the time to complete eligibility processes and make recommendations for streamlining eligibility determinations for Medicaid LTSS, which is a significant payer for long-term care. The lengthy eligibility process is a major cause of discharge delays.

**Support
SB 296 to**

- ✓ **Improve**
patient care
- ✓ **Relieve**
pressure on hospitals
- ✓ **Strengthen**
Oregon's health care system



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