



March 18, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Health Care

Fr: Matt Swanson, SEIU Oregon State Council

Re: Health Care Workforce Development Package

Senate Bills 27 and 283

These bills were split into two vehicles due to constitutional requirements relating to appropriations and new policy. Hospitals, Long Term Care, Primary Care and Labor Organizations have worked with Senator Patterson to prepare legislation that makes critical investments to address workforce shortages across our industry.

Senate Bill 27

This bill is the vehicle for investments in key recruitment and retention initiatives for training and retention.

Essential Worker Health Trust

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$20,000,000, to be used as non-federal share for the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program.¹

Long Term Training Partnership

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,500,000, to be used as non-federal share for the CareWorks Supplemental Payment Program.²

Hospital Training Partnership

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$2,500,000, to be used as non-federal share for the Oregon High Quality Hospital Training Payment Program³ which provides enhanced reimbursement for providers participating in a labor-management training trust to expand on-the-job training, apprenticeship opportunities and other programs that support the development of health care professionals, including medical technicians, certified nursing assistants and phlebotomists.

525 NE OREGON ST.
PORTLAND, OR 97232

Clinical Education Reimbursements in Hospitals –

¹ Program Name referenced in the SPA

² Program Name referenced in the SPA

³ Program Name referenced is CMS approved preprint for CY 2024

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority, for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$15,000,000, which may be expended to provide reimbursements to support clinical education at hospitals.

Clinical Education in Long term Care—

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Human Services for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$10,000,000, which may be expended to provide reimbursements to support clinical education in long term care.

Education and Workforce in FQHCs

In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Health Authority for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 out of the General Fund, the amount of \$9,500,000 to support Federally Qualified Health Centers to support workforce development, recruitment and retention.

SB 283

Makes policy adjustments and direction to carry out programs associated with the appropriations in SB 283.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 283

“SECTION 1. ORS 676.476 is amended to read:

“676.476. The Oregon Health Authority shall provide reimbursements to hospitals and long term care, as those terms are defined in ORS XXX.XXX, to support clinical education at hospitals and [health care] skilled nursing facilities. To receive reimbursement under this section, a hospital or long term care facility must offer clinical placements, as defined by the authority by rule, that include the provision of clinical instruction, supervision and health care professional training services.

“SECTION 2. ORS 676.479 is amended to read:

“676.479. The Oregon Health Authority shall provide reimbursements to:

“(1) Employers participating in a labor-management training trust to expand on-the-job training, apprenticeship opportunities and other programs that support the development of health care professionals, including medical technicians, certified nursing assistants and phlebotomists.

“(2) Federally qualified health centers to support workforce development, recruitment and retention.

SECTION 3. No later than September 30, 2026, the Oregon Health Authority shall submit a report, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, to the interim committees of the Legislative

Assembly related to health on the authority's progress in carrying out the provisions of ORS 676.476 and 676.479, including any federal approval sought under section 4 of this 2025 Act.

SECTION 4. The Oregon Health Authority may seek any necessary approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to receive federal financial participation in the costs of the reimbursements provided under ORS 676.476 and 676.479.

Section 5. OHA will convene a cross-agency taskforce to evaluate Essential Worker Health Trust and make recommendations for sustainable funding and better agency oversight and accountability. The taskforce will make recommendations in time for consideration for the 2027-2029 agency request budgets and also for possible consideration by the 2027 Legislature.

The first meeting of the workgroup shall occur no later than September 15, 2025. The workgroup shall deliver preliminary recommendations no later than February 15, 2026 and final recommendations no later than June 1, 2026.