

LC 328
2026 Regular Session
2/3/26 (RH/ps)

D R A F T

SUMMARY

Digest: Declares the need to improve our state's health care system. (Flesch Readability Score: 78.2).

Declares a state policy goal that by 2033 Oregon's health care system will be more affordable and accessible.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the cost of health care in Oregon has become unaffordable for individuals, employers and government; and

Whereas Oregon is projected to lose over \$8 billion in federal Medicaid funds over the next three biennia; and

Whereas the intersection of rising health care costs and the loss of federal funds will put unprecedented pressure on the General Fund, which will:

(1) Compromise access to care, particularly in rural parts of this state; and

(2) Undermine the state's ability to invest in other priorities, such as education, housing and economic opportunity, many of which have a direct impact on the health of the population; and

Whereas 15 percent of Oregonians have delayed or avoided needed medical care because of cost; and

Whereas the leading cause of personal bankruptcy in Oregon is the inability to pay a medical bill; and

Whereas over half of Oregon's hospitals are operating at a loss; and

Whereas medical clinics and practices, including independent practices, are struggling to remain solvent; and

Whereas the cost shift to employers is driving higher premiums and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 deductibles for employees; and

2 Whereas there are multiple factors driving the increasing cost of care,
3 including:

4 (1) A payer mix with a large proportion of publicly funded health care
5 programs such as Medicaid and Medicare;

6 (2) Oregon's poor business climate;

7 (3) A costly regulatory framework;

8 (4) Underinvestment in Oregon's primary care infrastructure;

9 (5) Inefficiencies and misaligned incentives in the delivery system and
10 payment model;

11 (6) External cost drivers, including prescription drugs, labor and
12 workforce issues and a fragmented behavioral health system;

13 (7) The need for primary prevention; and

14 (8) The disparity between unlimited demand and the reality of finite re-
15 sources; and

16 Whereas all of those factors must be addressed to achieve a sustainable
17 solution; and

18 Whereas the escalating cost of health care is threatening the health and
19 well-being of Oregonians, the stability of the General Fund and the
20 competitiveness of our businesses; and

21 Whereas this crisis in cost and access was decades in the making and
22 cannot be turned around in a single biennium; and

23 Whereas addressing the crisis will require a consistent set of budgetary
24 and policy decisions over the course of three biennia, guided by a long-term
25 policy vision; now, therefore,

26 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

27 That we, the members of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly, declare
28 a state policy goal that by 2033, through the collective and collaborative ef-
29 forts of Oregon businesses, health care providers, health insurers and labor
30 leaders, we will live in a state where:

31 (1) All Oregonians have timely access to a patient-centered primary care

1 home and to quality, affordable health care services;

2 (2) Population health outcomes are improving;

3 (3) Our health care system is far less complex than it is today, is easy to

4 access and navigate for individuals and is enjoyable to practice in for pro-

5 viders and other health care workers;

6 (4) Hospitals and medical clinics and practices, including independent

7 practices, operate on a stable, sustainable financial footing;

8 (5) The cost shift to employers is minimized; and

9 (6) Utilization, unit price and total cost of care trends are below the na-

10 tional average.

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