



# Testimony in Support for HB 4047 Rural Emergency Hospitals

Chair Nosse; Vice-Chairs, Diehl and Nelson; and Members of the Committee:

OSHP is in support of HB 4047, which strengthens Oregon's implementation of the Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) designation. From the pharmacy perspective, this bill is essential to ensure that rural communities retain access to safe, reliable, and clinically appropriate medication services. Rural Emergency Hospitals cannot function without a stable pharmacy infrastructure. Medications are central to emergency stabilization, chronic disease management, behavioral health treatment, infection control, and transitions of care.

When a rural hospital closes or reduces services, the pharmacy impact is immediate and severe: medication access becomes fragmented, emergency departments lose critical support, and patients face longer travel times, delayed treatment, and increased risk of medication-related harm.

HB 4047 provides the clarity and operational support needed to make the REH model viable in Oregon. This includes ensuring that REHs can maintain the pharmacy services required for emergency care, outpatient treatment, and safe discharge planning. Pharmacists play a critical role in:

- Medication reconciliation and transitions of care, which reduce readmissions and prevent adverse drug events
- Antimicrobial stewardship, essential in rural areas with limited inpatient capacity
- Chronic disease management, especially for patients with limited access to primary care
- Emergency response, including trauma, overdose reversal, sepsis protocols, and time-sensitive therapies
- Telepharmacy and remote verification, which expand access while maintaining safety and compliance

Without a functioning pharmacy service, an REH cannot meet federal Conditions of Participation or Oregon's own patient-safety expectations. HB 4047 ensures that Oregon's REHs are not hollow designations but fully capable care sites with the clinical pharmacy support necessary to serve their communities.

Rural Oregon faces persistent workforce shortages, pharmacy closures, and declining access to essential health services. HB 4047 is a pragmatic, bipartisan solution that stabilizes rural health infrastructure without creating new regulatory burdens. It brings Oregon in line with federal REH standards and maintains strong medication management for emergency and outpatient care.

For these reasons, OSHP respectfully urges your yes vote on HB 4047.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to rural health.

The Oregon Society of Health-System Pharmacists represents pharmacists and technicians working in organized health systems in Oregon to advance the practice of pharmacy and assure that Oregon is a model of excellence in health-system pharmacy.