

2026 Legislative Session



Safeguarding OHSU's Missions of Teaching, Healing and Discovery

Oregon Health & Science University is proud of the unique role it plays in Oregon as the state's only academic health center. As a public entity, OHSU's unique mission serves the people of Oregon in partnership with the Oregon Legislature and Oregon Governor Tina Kotek. As the institution navigates uncertain times, those partnerships are more important than ever in ensuring the long-term success of OHSU. This year, advocacy by OHSU and many OHSU members ensured that vital resources were protected, and policy was advanced that will help students, patients and employees.



As implementation of HR-1 goes into effect, the State of Oregon faced numerous decision points with impacts on the state budget during the 2026 legislative session.

Many of those issues, including connection to the federal tax code, implementation of specific requirements around Medicaid and nutritional assistance programs impacted the state budget. Those issues were compounded by a softening economy in Oregon and weakening economic forecast.

OHSU entered the 2026 legislative session with an agenda to protect as much state funding as possible within the current budget environment, to support for OHSU's people, programs and missions, maintain OHSU's unique statutory structure and ensure the future sustainability of OHSU by working to pause new financial obligations for the hospital.

Through sustained advocacy throughout the legislative session, OHSU:

- Educated lawmakers on the importance of Graduate Medical Education and the work of OHSU, protecting all existing funding;
- Passed legislation to smooth the creation of the Knight Cancer Group, which will be a public non-profit;
- Protected providers of gender affirming care and reproductive health care through new shield laws and the closure of gaps in current public records law;
- Made updates to OHSU's board statute; and,
- Worked closely with advocates of federal response legislation, including around ICE enforcement, to ensure operational success at OHSU.

All of this work was made possible because of partnerships with legislators, advocacy organizations, and labor unions. In addition, OHSU members from across the institution engaged in important advocacy on individual legislation in public health, health care, and education policy areas.

Together, OHSU and its members continued the work this session to make Oregon a national leader in health and science innovation.





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Budget

HB 5204 | ✓

Budget Reconciliation bill

As Oregon's only academic health center and a public corporation of the state of Oregon, OHSU receives a biennial appropriation from the state's general fund to support education and other programs at the institution. In addition, through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), OHSU receives significant funding to support Graduate Medical Education (GME).

Throughout the fall and winter of 2025 budget leaders signaled significant challenges as they grappled with the impacts of HR-1 implementation and weakening economy. Potential cuts of up to \$1 billion were forecast and planned for. As part of the process, OHSU provided 2.5 and 5 percent cuts scenarios of the institution's general fund appropriation to budget leaders in the state legislature for consideration. Proposed cuts to the Oregon Health Authority offered up significant cuts to GME funding, which would have impacted both general fund investments and the drawdown of federal resources.

OHSU President Shereef Elnahal, M.D., met with dozens of lawmakers over the fall, winter and during session to advocate for GME funding and OHSU's general fund budget. He was joined by OHSU Provost Marie Chisholm-Burns, Ph.D., M.P.H., MBA, FCCP, FASHP, FAST, FNAP, FACHE, who also highlighted for legislators the success of OHSU 30-30-30.

Joyce Hollander-Rodriguez, M.D., Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, worked in coordination with OHSU government relations throughout the interim and during session to bring awareness to the impacts of cuts to GME. Her advocacy and that of students and faculty who support GME at OHSU were vital in protecting resources and expanding knowledge of the importance of GME for the state's health care workforce.

Ultimately, following better than expected revenue forecasts and a partial disconnect from the federal tax code, budget leaders in the legislature offered up much smaller cuts of \$128 million that did not impact GME or OHSU's general fund appropriation.

In the final budget, OHA lost vacant positions and made minor spending cuts across the agency. OHA and the Oregon Department of Health and Human Services, which administer Oregon's Medicaid and federal food benefits programs, received about \$273 million to upgrade computer systems and hire additional workforce to implement and administer new requirements for both programs from HR-1.

SB 1501 | ✓

Moda Center Renovations Funding

OHSU joined a coalition of local organizations to support efforts to renovate the Moda Center in Portland. The legislature ultimately approved the legislation that authorizes the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to enter into agreements to own and oversee the operations of the Moda Center in the City of Portland.

SB 1507 | ✓

Selective Disconnect

Disconnects Oregon from federal provisions allowing deductions of personal auto loan interest and bonus depreciation and allowing exclusion of gains from small business stock. Increases the amount of the earned income tax credit allowed as a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit and creates a personal income or corporate excise tax credit for a taxpayer creating new jobs in the tax year.

SB 1586 | ✗

Oregon JOBS Act

The Oregon JOBS Act would have expanded R&D income tax credit for semiconductor companies to include "qualified alternative energy production" and "qualified biotechnology" companies. It also would have expanded standard enterprise zone property tax exemption and reduces employment requirements to qualify as an eligible employer for the Industrial Site Readiness Program.

HB 4084 | ✓

Governor Kotek's Economic Development Package

Creates a Joint Permitting Council to administer a fast-track permitting program. Requires specified state agencies to publish a comprehensive catalog of permits related to economic development and to report to the Governor on the performance and operations of their respective permitting programs within 120 from the measure's effective date. Modifies and expands eligibility for participation in Oregon's enterprise zones and appropriates \$40 million General Fund to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) for the Industrial Site Loan Fund.



Policy

Benefits and Labor

HB 4093 |

Protections for Persons with Disabilities in the Workplace

Prohibits employers from denying an employee's request to have a support person accompany them in discussions concerning reasonable accommodation subject to specific conditions.

Prohibits employers from using minimum physical requirements in a job posting without connecting the physical requirements to the essential functions of the job.

HB 4094 |

Paid Time Off Payout

Requires employers that provide earned or accrued pay time off, upon termination of an employee, pay out unused paid time off in accordance with statutory requirements governing final wages.

HB 4147 |

Reporting Workers Enrolled in Medicaid

OHSU joined a coalition of organizations to support this legislation that would have directed OHA with the Human Services and Employment departments, to report the top 20 employers with highest number of employees enrolled in Medicaid.

SB 1502 |

Administrative Changes to Paid Leave Oregon

Permits the Oregon Employment Department to adopt rules establishing an accounting system for contributions to and benefits paid from the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund to ensure compliance with tax reporting and withholding requirements. It specifies what the accounting system may include.

SB 1518 |

Caregiver Wage Protection

Modifies the exclusion of “companionship services” employees from minimum wage, overtime, and minimum employment conditions by specifying that the exclusion applies when a person is providing companionship services as defined in federal regulations, specifically 29 C.F.R. 552.6 as in effect on January 1, 2016, unless the person is employed, singly or jointly, by a third party in the business of providing home care or companionship services.

SB 1519 |

Workers Compensation Insurance

Changes the formula for determining permanent and temporary total disability compensation. Retains existing minimum and maximum compensation rates during a period of temporary or permanent total disability and specifies that the statutory definition for “average weekly wage” applicable to temporary total disability only applies to increases in compensation benefits paid when the applicable average weekly wage has increased since the previous fiscal year.



Health Care

HCR 202 |

Resolution Setting Goals to Make Oregon's Health Care System More Affordable

This resolution was developed by former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber and declares a state policy goal that by 2033 Oregon's health care system will be more affordable and accessible.

HB 4003 |

Medicaid Prioritized List

Removes provisions relating to the use of the prioritized list of health services in the Oregon Health Plan.

HB 4038 |

Cost Growth Target

Delay OHA from taking enforcement action against providers or payers under the Health Cost Growth Target until January 1, 2036.

HB 4039 |

COO Transparency Rate Setting Process

Requires the Oregon Health Authority to develop a transparent and data-driven process for developing capitation rates for coordinated care organizations.

HB 4040 |

Health Care Omnibus

House Bill 4040 was an omnibus package of non-controversial health care policy developed over the interim by the chair of the House Committee on Health Care. Included in this package was a change to current state law around hospital financial assistance presumptive eligibility that modifies the threshold triggering automatic screening for financial assistance from \$500 to \$1,500 for a single hospital encounter. This legislation was supported by a broad coalition of organizations, including labor and hospitals.

HB 4047 |

Rural Emergency Hospital License

Authorizes hospitals to apply for licensure to operate as a rural emergency hospital and directs OHA to establish and assess a licensing fee for this new designation.

HB 4048 |

Rural Health Care Tax Credit

Expands the rural health care income tax credit to include pharmacist services performed in rural communities. Directs the Office of Rural Health to establish criteria for certifying pharmacists as eligible for the credit.

HB 4053 |

Emergency Medical Service Program Fund

Establishes the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program Fund, directs OHA to create programming for EMS workforce development and training, and makes changes to the EMS program and associated advisory boards. The fund can be used for donations or federal Rural Health Transformation Program.

HB 4068 |

Transition Aged Youth Residential Treatment Home

Modifies the definition of "transition aged youth residential treatment home" to include young adults between the ages of 17 (instead of 17.5) and 25.

HB 4069 |

Behavioral Health Worker Safety

Requires behavioral health employers to develop and implement written safety plans that specify safety measures for lone workers and the built environment, as defined by the measure. It specifies the date by which behavioral health employers must comply with the requirements, depending on their contract status with OHA.

**HB 4088 | ✓****Oregon's Shield Law**

OHSU supported this legislation with a coalition that included the ACLU of Oregon and Basic Rights Oregon. Among the provisions of the legislations were strengthened provider shield laws and enhanced public records exemptions for gender affirming care and reproductive health care providers at OHSU. Kara Connelly, M.D., testified on behalf of OHSU in support of the legislation.

HB 4074 | ❌

Hospital Staffing

Changes existing hospital nurse staffing laws. Requires a vote to adopt a nurse staffing plan by nurse staffing committee documented in nursing staffing plan. Modifies the staffing ration from four to five patients per direct care nurse, allows Type C hospitals to vary from statutory nurse staffing ratios, and it establishes a maximum amount of civil penalties that may be imposed for violations of staffing requirements.

HB 4075 | ✔️

Bay Area Hospital Loan

Directs the State Treasurer to use funds from the Unclaimed Property and Estates Fund to guarantee a rural hospital stabilization loan to the Bay Area Hospital located in Coos Bay. State Treasures can extend up to \$44 million to fulfill the contractual obligations on a guaranteed stabilization loan.

HB 4107 | ✔️

Urgent Care Centers

Requires urgent care centers to make certain information publicly available, adhere to specific service standards, and provide patient records to an emergency department. Prohibits the use of terms “urgent” or “urgent care” unless a business meets certain standards and limits an urgent care center from presenting itself as a hospital emergency department.

HB 4110 | ❌

Administering of Ibogaine

Allows an attending physician to provide ibogaine to a patient to treat certain behavioral disorders.

HB 4115 | ✔️

Criminal Background Checks for Caregivers

Extends the period for which background checks performed by ODHS and OHA for specified caregivers and prohibits ODHS or OHA from requiring a new criminal records check solely because the individual is changing employer or care setting. Requires OHA to communicate to behavioral health providers the processes for updating contact information and requires CCOS to reimburse contracted behavioral health providers back to the provider's medical assistance program enrollment application date.

HB 4127 | ✔️

Funding for Planned Parenthood

Creates a payment mechanism for OHA to reimburse Planned Parenthood providers for services since the organization is no longer eligible to receive federal Medicaid funds to pay for individuals enrolled in Oregon Health Plan.

In 2025, Planned Parenthood clinics in Oregon received emergency funding of \$7.5 million. The new fee-for-service payment mechanism will direct \$8.9 million to Planned Parenthood, nearly recovering the loss of federal Medicaid funding since the passage of HR-1.

HB 4131 | ✔️

Mobile Pharmacies

Directs the Oregon Board of Pharmacy to issue licenses to mobile pharmacy outlets and sets operational criteria for those outlets.

HB 4135 | ✔️

HPV Awareness Day

OHSU was proud to support this legislation which designates March 4th of each year as HPV Awareness Day.

HB 4155 | ❌

Infertility Treatment Insurance Coverage

Requires employer and individual health plans to reimburse the cost of certain fertility-related services for individuals diagnosed with infertility. And it establishes a program fund for individuals with plans from insurers exempt from covering certain services.

HB 4156 | ✔️

Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Intergovernmental Transfer Program

Changes language in existing statute related to the emergency services intergovernmental transfer program, replacing the term “intergovernmental transfer program” with “funding mechanism,” and permits the use of General Fund dollars to certify a program expenditure.

**SB 1527** | **Cervical Cancer Screenings and Treatment Coverage**

Prohibits certain health insurance carriers from imposing deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, or other out-of-pocket expenses for medically necessary cervical cancer screenings and follow-up examinations. Oregon is first in the nation to pass legislation eliminating out-of-pocket costs for screenings and treatment. OHSU supported this legislation, and Amanda Bruegl, M.D., testified on behalf of OHSU in support of the legislation.

SB 1528 | ❌

Prescription Drug Transparency Reporting

Specifies that drug manufacturers must include, within prescription drug price transparency reports to DCBS, certain information about all patient assistance programs that service Oregon consumers.

Requires reports to include the number of Oregon consumers who participated, eligibility criteria, the total value of assistance, and other specified information.

SB 1531 | ❌

Study Emergency Medical Services Funding

Requires OHA to study the feasibility of funding emergency medical services through a universal health care model.

SB 1532 | ✅

Improve Safety and Protections for Vulnerable Persons

Modifies several provisions related to residential and long-term care, developmental disabilities services, child-in-care placement decisions, restraint and seclusion of children in care. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is directed to establish a differentiated rate model for an agency that employees direct support professionals (DSP) who reside with a client.

SB 1568 | ✅

Doula Services and Oregon Perinatal Collaborative

Enhances and expands doula and lactation counselor coverage by Medicaid and health benefit plans and establishes the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative in statute at OHSU to coordinate efforts and make policy recommendations to improve infant and maternal health.

SB 1575 | ✅

Hospice Licensure

Temporarily prohibits OHA from issuing new hospice licenses pending rulemaking for new licensure review requirements, to be completed within 24 months. It provides exceptions for existing licensees expanding into new service areas, licensed health care or long-term care providers adding hospice for current patients, and applicants serving underserved areas or populations.



HB 4179 | 

Knight Cancer Group

Following the historic \$2 billion gift by Phil and Penny Knight to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, work has been underway to form the Knight Cancer Group. To help ensure this new public nonprofit could be formed, OHSU pursued legislation to make technical changes to the statute that permits OHSU to create and maintain a nonprofit corporation that provides clinical care and practice.

This legislation ensures OHSU will be a corporate member of the Knight Cancer Group governing board, and all public employer laws that apply to OHSU extend to the Knight Cancer Group.

Brian Druker, M.D., CEO of the Knight Cancer Institute, and Alice Cuprill Comas, J.D., OHSU General Counsel, testified on behalf of OHSU in support of the bill.



Campus Planning, Public Safety and Facilities

HB 4060 | ✓

Fluorescent Lamp Ban Delay

Creates an exemption for sales to purchasers with facilities totaling more than one million square feet from the ban on sales of certain fluorescent lamps until January 1, 2030.

Chad Sorber, Director of Facilities Services, testified in support of this bill on behalf of OHSU.

HB 4079 | ✓

ICE Notification on Higher Education Campus

Directs Oregon's higher education institutions to have a system in place to notify their respective campus community when federal immigration law enforcement is on campus for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

HB 4100 | ✓

Bulk Fuel Terminals

Requires owners or operators of bulk oils and liquid fuels terminals obtain a certificate of financial responsibility from the Department of Environmental Quality. The Environmental Quality Commission will establish rules related to financial assurance for spill-related liabilities, including a reasonable required minimum amount. The commission will appoint an advisory committee to ensure the requirements for financial responsibility are fair and effective. The department may establish a fee to cover the costs of implementation, and revenue will be deposited into the Seismic Risk Mitigation Fund.

HB 4138 | ✓

Law Enforcement Accountability and Transparency

Establishes identifiability requirements for officers of law enforcement agencies operating in Oregon, requires all law enforcement agencies to have a policy generally restricting the use of facial coverings by their on-duty officers and prohibits law enforcement officers from wearing certain facial coverings while on duty except in specified circumstances. Creates limitations and exceptions for certain state entities from cooperating with federal or out-of-state law enforcement where the cooperation involves activities that would violate certain constitutional rights.

SB 1570 | ✓

Federal Law Enforcement in Hospital Settings

Requires hospitals to have written policies that address how the hospital will respond if a law enforcement authority arrives at the hospital, including designating one administrator to respond when federal law enforcement arrives, designate which areas of the hospital are not open to the public, and restricts hospital disclosure of citizenship or immigration status to law enforcement unless required by state or federal court order or law.

Higher Education

HB 4124 | ✓

Higher Education Coordinating Commission Study Higher Education System

Directs the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to study the condition of Oregon's post-secondary education system and develop detailed recommendations for the design, implementation and operation of a viable and superior institutional framework. The HECC received \$2.5 million to complete this work



Mental and Behavioral Health

HB 4028 | 

Behavioral Health Care Claims Audits

Imposes requirements and restrictions on behavioral health provider reimbursement claim audits by insurers and coordinated care organizations (CCOs).

HB 4070 | 

Behavioral Health Access and Reform

Requires OHA and CCOs to ensure that access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment and services is no more burdensome than access to medical or surgical services and requires OHA to prescribe form and manner for how CCOs can demonstrate compliance. Makes several statutory changes to reduce the administrative burden of behavioral health providers and modernizes terminology related to mental health, substance use disorder, and intellectual or developmental disabilities.

HB 4083 | 

Behavioral Health Credentialing

Requires OHA to determine a uniform process for credentialing behavioral health providers, including selecting an existing electronic credentialing system, and authorizes flexible supervision requirements for individuals seeking specified behavioral health licensures. The bill implements recommendations from First Lady Amiee Kotek Wilson and Behavioral Health Talent Council to improve access to behavioral health care.

HB 4099 | 

Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis

Establishes the Task Force on Responding to Veterans in Crisis and requires the task force to develop a proposal to ensure all Oregon counties have a veteran crisis response team with at least two individuals trained in veteran crisis response, and to submit a report to the legislature.

SB 1534 | 

Abuse of Children in Care

Modifies the authority of the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to regulate providers of services for children in care. The measure modifies provisions relating to abuse of a child in care and modifies provisions that govern the department's licensing and regulatory authority over child-caring agencies. The measure allows the department to place children in care in certain congregate care settings pursuant to specified requirements.

SB 1546 | 

Artificial Intelligence Companions

Requires operators of AI companions and AI companion platforms to provide notice to users that the users are interacting with artificial output if a reasonable person that interacts with the artificial intelligence companion or artificial intelligence companion platform would believe that the person was interacting with a natural person.

SB 1547 | 

University of Oregon Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health Graduate Licensing Program

Authorizes the Oregon Board of Psychology to issue a license to practice behavioral health promotion, prevention and brief intervention to a qualified applicant. This new license is specific for these graduating from the Ballmer Institute. Their degree program is different from traditional behavioral health care degrees, as it is accelerated and specific to child behavioral health and wellness.

SB 1572 | 

Disruptive Behavior in Classrooms

Authorizes a teacher to immediately remove from the classroom setting a student who repeatedly interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the students to learn.

SB 1573 | ❌

Syringe Service Program Restrictions

Prohibits a syringe service program from operating a mobile or temporary location within 2,000 feet of a school or licensed childcare facility.

SB 1583 | ❌

Behavioral Health and Deflection Committee

Establishes a Behavioral Health and Deflection Committee within the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and is tasked with administering grant programs for Behavioral Health Resource Networks and deflection programs. It requires the Committee to analyze the most effective ways to address substance abuse in the state.

Public Entity

HB 4161 | ✅

Public Body Meetings Food and Merchandise

Provides an exception to Oregon ethics law that allows a public body to provide food and beverages to public officials during meetings, other official events, or when required by state law or rules. It also allows a public body to provide merchandise to public officials if the cost does not exceed \$100 in a calendar year or as provided by the public body's policies.

HB 4177 | ✅

Public Meetings and Serial Communications

Makes several changes to Oregon's public meeting laws around serial communications, including directly or through intermediaries, to decide or deliberate on any matter or to meet in private. Clarifies what communication is allowable. Limits the types of governing bodies required to attend training on public meetings law and changes the timeframe for completing the training. Formalizes a grievance process for individuals when they believe a public body has violated its responsibilities under the law.



HB 4066 | **OHSU Board of Directors Statutory Fixes**

This education omnibus bill made a number of different non-controversial statute updates. Among those was legislation pursued by OHSU to make technical changes to OHSU Board governing statute. These include adjusting the meeting frequency from every three months to four times a year and removing the student board member from participating in discussion around collective bargaining. The statutory changes align OHSU statute with the Public Universities statute ORS 352.

Public Health

HB 4007 | 

Powered Micromobility Device Regulation

Allows local governments to regulate or prohibit the use of electronically or motor powered devices like bicycles or scooters on sidewalks, trails, and streets under their jurisdiction by ordinance or rule. Modifies the minimum age to operate certain electric assist and motor-assisted devices. Clarifies applicability of helmet rules for riders under age 16 of bicycles, motor-assisted scooters, electric personal assistive mobility devices, skateboards, nonmotorized scooters, and inline skates, and stipulates that the first citation can be waived with proof of protective headgear.

HB 4092 | 

Child Safety Device and Car Seat Protections

Restricts the sale of car seats that do not meet federal or state safety standards. The restriction applies to retailers and online or other marketplaces. The measure provides for a private right of action for failure to comply. OHSU supported this legislation and Ben Hoffman, M.D., Cari Wolverton and Devery Barber testified on the bill.

HB 4160 | 

AEDs in Schools

Requires schools to have a cardiac emergency response plan for responding to medical emergencies. It establishes requirements for the response plan, including alignment with national standards, as well as the placement, identification, and maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). It requires athletic coaches and other staff to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of AEDs.

SB 1504 | 

Nasal Epinephrine in Schools

Allows students and school staff to administer a premeasured dose of epinephrine via auto-injector, nasal spray, or other method.

SB 1548 | 

Regulation of Marijuana Cannabinoids

Requires that each cannabinoid edible in a package of cannabinoid edibles be individually wrapped. Permits up to 10 milligrams of adult-use cannabinoid per individual cannabinoid edible. Applies to marijuana items sold on or after January 1, 2027. OHSU supported this legislation and Rob Henderickson, M.D., testified in committee.

SB 1571 | 

Oral Nicotine Products Regulation

Expands the definition of “tobacco products” to include any product that contains or comes from tobacco or nicotine and is likely to be used for human consumption, and it adds oral nicotine pouches and lozenges to the list of examples of tobacco products. OHSU partnered with a robust health care coalition to support this legislation.

SB 1577 | 

Food Labeling Protein Products

Classifies fabricated-egg food products and manufactured-protein food products made with plant-based, insect-based or lab grown proteins as misbranded if their labels use identifying terms associated with eggs or meat without including clear language, in close proximity, disclosing that the product is not made from eggs or meat.

SB 1598 | 

Protecting Access to Immunizations

Requires state-regulated health plans to cover specified preventive health services, including immunizations, and authorizes the state’s public health officer to make recommendations for services to be covered and issue standing orders for providers to dispense drugs and devices.

