

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

MARCH 29TH, 2023

Overview & Highlights

As the April 4th first chamber deadline approaches, dozens of bills have had public hearings and work sessions in all committees over the past two weeks. In order for bills to continue moving through the legislative session, they must pass out of their chamber of origin by April 4th and, with several new bills recently dropped out of Governor Kotek's office, the rush is on at the capitol. If a bill does not make it past the first chamber deadline, it is considered dead, though legislators and advocates could bring it back in a future legislative session.



In the House Behavioral Health and Health Care Committee, a top line item was the public hearing for **House Bill 2002**, which would create greater protections and access for reproductive and gender-affirming health care. Representative Nosse (D – HD 42) held a four-and-a-half-hour hearing, ensuring that as many people as possible could provide testimony, both in support and opposition. In addition to this high-profile bill, the Committee held hearings and work sessions on numerous other vital pieces of legislation. This includes **House Bill 2757**, expanding and further funding the 988 crisis system, **HB 2446** which extends the contracting deadline between CCOs and the Oregon Health Authority to Dec. 31, 2026, and companion bills **2918** and **2925** which continues funding for culturally responsive mobile health units and their oversight by affinity task forces. Additionally, the committee moved a number of bills addressing the healthcare workforce crisis, from bills establishing or modifying provider incentive programs to those creating and smoothing career pipelines. Behavioral health was a central point of committee work in recent days, including Representative Dexter's (D – HD 33) **HB 2397** expanding and funding harm reduction strategies for substance use disorder (SUD), as well as **HB 3274**, sponsored by Representatives Morgan (R – HD 3) and Marsh (D – HD 5) and Senator Golden (D – SD 3), which would support Southern Oregon University in graduating more behavioral and mental health professionals.

The Senate Committee on Health Care has also been moving quickly as they approach the April 4th deadline. Bills of note include **SB 972**, which would direct the Oregon Health Authority to

develop a state-based marketplace, shifting Oregon off of its current federally-facilitated state-based marketplace. This would allow the state greater flexibility in plan design and, eventually, house the future Basic Health Plan currently in development on the marketplace. **Senate Bill 704**, establishing a governance board for Universal Health Care, also received a work session, in which several amendments were outlined and adopted, and was passed out of committee with significant bipartisan coordination. Outside of the health insurance space, **Senate Bill 1076** was heard which would require licensed hospitals to establish discharge policies for patients experiencing houselessness. Addressing equitable access to health care professional education pathways, **Senate Bill 469**, which would establish an Indian Health Scholarship Program for Indigenous health professionals, received a work session and was passed out of committee.



Last but not least, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, co-chaired by Senator Steiner and Representative Sanchez, released their **budget framework** for the 2023-2025 biennium. This document outlines their intentions and goals regarding allocation of funds, though it is subject to change based on the May revenue forecast. The Committee also released their schedule for the **Ways and Means “roadshow”**, where the committee will travel to various Oregon communities to learn more about constituent priorities. This is an excellent opportunity for advocates who are not based in the Portland or Salem area to make their voices heard!

Key Session Deadlines



[View All Activities...](#)

OPCA Policy Team in Action

OPCA's Policy Team has been busy monitoring and advocating for bills over the past two weeks. In addition to submitting written comment in support of SB 1076 on hospital discharge policies for people experiencing houselessness and SB 549 which would support and expand School-Based Health Centers in Oregon, we have also been moving our own pieces of legislation. Notably, OPCA's Executive Director, Joan Watson-Patko, provided oral testimony on Section 29 of the reproductive and gender affirming health care package, House Bill 2002. Section 29 of the bill outlines a pilot program that would allow FQHCs in rural Oregon to engage in reproductive health care, including abortion care. It would establish two mobile health units which are entirely state-funded to address the reproductive health care desert that exists outside of the I-5 corridor.

Additionally, OPCA's Senate Bill 608, sponsored by Senator Campos, is scheduled for a public hearing on Monday, March 27th in the Senate Committee on Health Care and for a work session on March 29th. This bill would establish a three-year cycle for the state to conduct a cost-to-dispense survey for prescription medication and require subsequent adjustment of the professional dispense fee as a result of the survey.

OPCA Policy Priority Areas

- Basic Health Plan (BHP) – Unlikely that this will be addressed legislatively, but OPCA continues to advocate with lawmakers in support of Basic Health Plan development and implementation. The BHP was addressed on page 2 of the [Ways and Means budget framework](#).
- Our Issue Brief on Redetermination is Linked [Here](#).
- [House Bill 2001](#): Addressing Oregon's Housing Crisis – this is a large package of bills sponsored by Representative Dexter, aimed at addressing Oregon's Housing Crisis from a holistic perspective. OPCA submitted [testimony](#) in support of this bill at its initial public hearing in February. It has since moved through many committees because of its multi-departmental impact and was most recently signed by the Speaker of the House, Dan Rayfield.
- [House Bill 2002](#), Section 29: Reproductive Health FQHC Pilot Program – This bill is included in a large package concerning reproductive health equity and access. See page 13 of the bill to read text on the FQHC Pilot Program. Bill received a public hearing on March 20th and OPCA provided oral comments. March 27th is the scheduled date for a work session.
- Our One-Pager Linked [Here](#)
- View the public hearing [here](#)
- [House Bill 2555](#): Payment Parity for Naturopathic Doctors – A work session was held for this bill on March 22nd, where it was passed out of committee.
- [House Bill 2918](#): Continues Mobile Health Unit Pilot Program – OPCA submitted written testimony in support of House Bill 2918 and its companion bill 2925, which you can read [here](#). This bill and its companion were passed out of committee at the March 13th work session.
- [House Bill 3013](#): Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform – This bill would require Pharmacy Benefit Managers to be licensed with the Department of Consumer and Business Services, as well as implement other requirements. Work session is scheduled for Monday, March 27th.
- [House Bill 3040](#): CCO Data Sharing – Public Hearing held in the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care (OPCA and other FQHC stakeholders provided oral comments, see recording [here](#)) on February 22nd. A work session is scheduled for March 27th.
- [House Bill 2926](#): Nurse Education Incentives – with amendments, this bill would create incentives for hospitals and FQHCs in rural areas to offer clinical training programs for nurses. This bill is scheduled for a work session on April 3rd in House Behavioral Health and Health Care.
- [House Bill 2979](#): Educational Pathways for Careers in Dentistry – this bill would establish a grant program directed to community colleges for promote and increase dental assistant and hygienist training programs in Oregon. The bill was passed out of committee on March 22nd.
- [Senate Bill 549](#): Expansion and Increased Funding for School-Based Health Centers – this bill would support school-based health centers in Oregon. OPCA submitted public [testimony](#) in support of this bill at it's March 16th public hearing. It is scheduled for a work session on March 28th.
- [Senate Bill 608](#): Professional Dispense Fee for Prescription Medications – public hearing scheduled in Senate Health Care for March 27th, with subsequent work

session scheduled on March 29th. To submit written testimony, click [here](#)!

- Our One-Pager Linked [Here](#)
- [Senate Bill 624](#): Expands Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) – This bill was heard in the Senate Health Care Committee on February 20th and OPCA provided oral testimony. It is scheduled for a work session on March 27th.
- [Senate Bill 1076](#): Hospital Discharge Policies for Oregonians Experiencing Houselessness – This bill would require licensed hospitals to establish discharge policies with specific requirements when releasing patients experiencing houselessness. OPCA submitted [testimony](#) in support of this legislation for its March 20th public hearing; it is scheduled for an additional public hearing on March 27th (you can submit written comments [here](#)) and a work session on April 3rd.



Hosting a Legislator?

Use our district specific data tool to find policy fliers including district and statewide infographics and Oregon Network information from HRSA.

[Click here to see more](#)

Medicaid Redetermination Update

OPCA is excited to announce that we will continue to host Medicaid Redetermination Office Hours! These meetings will be hosted monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM. At these meetings, OPCA will provide an update on redetermination and then facilitate an open space for Q & A, as well as member resource sharing. You can download these meetings to your calendar by clicking this [link](#). Please feel free to reach out to Marris Alden, OPCA's Health Policy Analyst, at malden@orpca.org with any questions.

Additionally, the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace team hosted a webinar last week about supporting patients who may be transitioning off of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and onto a marketplace plan as a result of redetermination. Specifically, they outline best practices for communicating with patients, as well as the processes and timeline they anticipate for getting people enrolled in marketplace plans. This webinar would be especially useful for outreach and enrollment staff and resource navigators who will be working with patients to navigate what happens after their OHP benefits are terminated. The webinar can be viewed [here](#). For an update on the redetermination and potential disenrollment timeline, view OHA's in-depth slide deck [here](#).

We encourage members to sign up for OHA's "Keep Covered" newsletter to get these updates directly to your inbox! To sign up, follow this [link](#).

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