



February 3, 2016

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *Support for House Bill 4124*

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals, health care systems, and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 4124.

OAHHS strongly supports House Bill 4124 and we urge this committee to swiftly approve it. The bill would require the Oregon Health Authority to disclose prescription monitoring information to providers for use in certain health information technology systems.

Key among the new technology systems in Oregon is the Emergency Department Information Exchange, or EDIE. The EDIE system has been voluntarily adopted in all 62 of Oregon's acute care hospital emergency departments. This system allows providers across the state to better coordinate the care for vulnerable Oregonians that regularly utilize the emergency department for services.

Additionally, the system allows providers to see when a patient has recently accessed emergency services at another facility and to understand when certain abuses may be taking place. The ability to connect prescription drug and emergency department utilization information will allow hospitals and emergency providers to curb prescription drug abuse and help individuals receive the treatment they really need. OAHHS urges you to support HB 4124.

Thank you for your consideration. For more information please contact Andi Easton at 503-559-1059.