



From the Desk of Rob Nosse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Nosse".

Vote YES on SB 419A

SB 419A will begin a workgroup study process to explore methods to implement more reasonable hospital reimbursement rates, lower health care costs for Oregon families, and address one of the largest and most pressing cost drivers facing school districts and other local governments across Oregon.

Many Oregonians experience financial strain due to hospital and pharmaceutical costs. One in four Oregonians says health care costs have caused a serious financial problem for them as individuals or for their family. Medical bills routinely rank among the top causes for bankruptcies.

Rates for health care plans in the Oregon Educator Benefit Board and Public Employee Benefit Board have increased by double digits in recent years, driving up costs for the state, school districts, local governments and their employees.

Health care spending growth outpaces the growth of the overall economy and workers' wages. Between 2015-2025 health care spending is projected to grow at an average rate of 5.8 percent per year. Hospital expenditures constitute the largest single component of health care spending, and accounts for a steady proportion of national expenditures on health care, approximately 30%.

At the same time, recent reports have shown that Oregon hospitals' net income has increased by over 50%; hospitals sit on record cash reserves; and hospital executive compensation is out of control.

SB 419A Establishes a Task Force on Health Care Cost Review to study and make recommendations to the legislature on establishing a hospital rate-setting process in Oregon. This will be an important and much-needed step forward toward the implementation of hospital cost controls.

Oregonians are counting on the Legislature to show the leadership needed to hold down rising costs of services by addressing the primary drivers of those costs.

We urge your support for SB 419A.