



OREGON COALITION OF RURAL LEGISLATORS

The Honorable Kate Brown
Oregon State Governor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 10, 2020

Subject: Support for Oregon Hospital Stabilization Fund

Governor Brown,

We are writing you today as a bi-partisan, bi-cameral coalition of rural legislators who are deeply concerned about the state of affairs for Oregon hospitals during this time of uncertainty. Representing all four corners of the state and a great portion of the land in-between, we are troubled by the lack of financial support our hospitals and stand-alone medical clinics have received even though they are sacrificing everything they have on the front lines of this pandemic.

We have all directly called and/or visited the hospitals in our districts asking how long they will be able to keep their doors open without sacrificing their current level of service and the response has been staggering. Not only are we finding that we are among the first to reach out to check in on the hospital status, but many of these critical facilities have already been forced to furlough or lay off over 18,000 employees with larger layoffs expected within the next two weeks. This staff is the necessary backbone they must have to combat not only COVID-19, but all the other local emergency services they are responsible for.

Standing by and letting these hospitals and medical clinics spin out of control will be adding an additional public health crisis on top of the global pandemic we are already trying to contain. Therefore, we are asking you to support the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems' request for a \$200M Hospital Stabilization Fund. This fund could be accessible through a grant or loan and will be able to immediately allocate funding directly to hospitals and medical clinics to address their initial urgent needs so they can continue to deliver these critical services in our communities until they are able to access federal relief money and are able to resume curtailed services. Additionally, we support allocating a portion of the Hospital Stabilization Fund specifically for rural and small hospitals and medical clinics to maintain the current level of health care employment capacity to allow our hospitals to remain open and accessible to our constituents.

We fully support OAHHS's further requests to invest the FMAP rates directly to Medicaid and hospitals along with other health care needs. It is imperative we give our hospitals and nursing facilities the money they need to provide treatment to anyone effected by COVID-19 regardless of their zip code, insurance status or economic status.

We thank you for your dedication and leadership during this time of ambiguity and understand there are a lot of requests that come across your desk. However, we request your full attention and swift action to assist our rural and small hospitals, keeping hundreds in our districts employed and maintaining the same quality of public health required to keep our communities safe.

Respectfully,



Lynn P. Findley
Senate District 30



Betsy Johnson
Senate District 16



Bill Hansell
Senate District 29



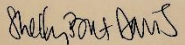
Chuck Thomsen
Senate District 26



Herman Baertschiger Jr.
Senate District 2



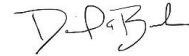
E. Werner Reschke
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House District 9



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