

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 20: Oregon Health Authority Hospital Capacity

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Nosse

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board allocate \$9,650,000 General Fund from a special purpose appropriation made to the Emergency Board, increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$2,317,000, and increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$2,000,000 for the Oregon Health Authority to address staffing and bed capacity constraints in Oregon's acute care hospitals.

Oregon's acute care hospitals are experiencing a capacity crisis due to a lack of places to transfer patients who need a different level of care and challenges with hiring and retaining staff. OHA has worked with the Department of Human Services and Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems to address this issue through a series of proposed short-term investments. The most significant of these investments is \$6.9 million General Fund to support temporary nurse staffing contracts for hospitals where space is currently underused due to a lack of nursing staff. The remaining investments include increased payments to enhanced care facilities; support for the Oregon Medical Coordination Center to enhance its coordination of patient transfers; and one-time payments of \$1,200 to health care interpreters to ensure they remain in Oregon's health care workforce.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.