

Testimony for HB 4075

Good afternoon, Chair Nosse, Vice-chairs Diehl & Nelson, members of the committee, thank you for your time addressing this important issue. My name is Troy Cribbins I am the former board chair for Bay Area Hospital, the Administrator for Pacific Home Health & Hospice a small Home health & Hospice organization in Coos Bay, a sitting city councilor for the City of Coos Bay, and a republican candidate for HD9 which Representative Wright currently holds and encompasses Coos Bay/North Bend, Reedsport, Florence and Western Lane county.

The Southern Oregon Coast is a beautiful resource rich region of our state that unfortunately has been negatively impacted many times by decisions made here in Salem that have resulted in long-term economic decline, high unemployment rates, low-income levels, an aging population, the export of our youth, and a progressive decline in access to essential services, I see that daily basis with regard to health care. Bay Area Hospital plays a unique and vital role on the south coast, it is the only DRG hospital in that region, It serves as a feeder hospital for 4 critical access hospitals, Including Reedsport, Coquille, Bandon, and Brookings, It is a level 3 Trauma center, offers orthopedic, cardiac, Oncology services, and it is the only place to have a baby in the entire region, if it goes away, and/or has to downgrade significantly it will have a devastating effect for that entire region.

Not only will this have a dramatic effect on our rural communities related to healthcare, with this already struggling population then being required to travel an additional 2-3hrs for comparable care, putting an additional burden on those communities, But it will have a devastating impact on our efforts on economic development as well, with many industries that pay living wages wanting to see a healthy hospital structure in place, which in turn impacts our ability to support small business, maintain infrastructure, and even into the health of our schools.

I realize that our health care system is in crisis, and from the State side that is not going to get better anytime soon with the impending cuts over the next 10yrs. And real work needs to be done, but until we can come up with a long-term solution, our rural communities and Bay Area Hospital need assistance, and an unorthodox, out of the box, short term idea could be the bridge until that long term sustainable solution can be developed.

Again, I want to thank you for your work, and your efforts to tackle this complicated issue.

Respectfully,

Troy Cribbins PT, DPT/AD