

Submitter: Tracy Sweely
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4075

"To: Treasurer Steiner and Legislators,

I live in Coos Bay and I have been going to the monthly Bay Area Hospital Finance and Board Meetings since spring of 2023. I am urging you to vote YES on the legislative package to assist the Bay Area Hospital, including House Bill 4075. I, along with many members of the community, witnessed problems with previous leadership at the hospital and we worked hard to bring about changes. We helped to elect four new board members, who were seated in July of 2025 and who have initiated sweeping changes and implemented a rigorous recovery plan. While this disciplined recovery plan of the last few months has shown its great potential for lasting financial independence, Bay Area Hospital still needs some assistance to overcome the last few years of losses incurred by previous leadership.

As of the end of December, the hospital's finances are in the black for the first time in 54 months! There is a clear trend showing that new leadership is turning things around. Prior to August 2025 they were losing an average \$2M a month. But at the end of August the net loss was about -\$1.3M, at the end of September it was -\$931K, at the end of October it was -\$430K, at the end of November it was -\$393K and at the end of December the net profit was +\$12K. While that isn't a lot, the trend shows new leadership is turning the finances around. But there is still a long way to go in order to reach financial sustainability. Refinancing the loan at more favorable rates is the next step that would help enormously while other steps in the restabilization plan are unfolding.

As hard as new leadership is working, if no legislative action is taken, the economic health of the region as well as local lives would be at risk. The hospital is the largest employer and a vital economic engine in the region. The local community doesn't exist in a bubble. Family and friends of local residents, as well as residents from all over Oregon visit the area and will want the assurance that the hospital's full suite of services will be there for them and their loved ones if they ever need it.

Please help the hospital's determined leaders to bring the finances to heel, to support local healthcare access and to revive Bay Area Hospital as an invaluable regional asset!

Respectfully,
Tracy Sweely

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