



Kelley Minty, County Commissioner

February 11, 2026

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Diehl and Nelson and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Kelley Minty, and I serve as the chair of the Klamath County Board of Commissioners. I am here today to express my strong support for House Bill 4074 and the amended language modifying the Type C hospital designation.

Sky Lakes Medical Center is not just another rural hospital, it is the backbone of health care for our region. It serves as the sole community hospital for a vast geographic area that spans southern Oregon and northern California. For tens of thousands of residents, Sky Lakes is the difference between timely care close to home and hours of travel during medical emergencies.

From a county perspective, the stability of Sky Lakes directly affects public safety, economic vitality, and quality of life. When a hospital struggles, the entire community feels it...families, employers, emergency responders, and local governments alike.

House Bill 4074 recognizes a reality we see every day: rural referral centers face unique challenges that current law does not adequately reflect. Workforce shortages, geographic isolation, and financial pressures are not theoretical, they are ongoing and acute. The amended bill appropriately focuses on updating the Type C designation so that hospitals like Sky Lakes have the same staffing flexibility already afforded to other rural facilities.

This is not about lowering standards. It is about ensuring that essential services remain available in rural communities. The flexibility provided under this bill helps protect access to care while preserving patient safety and supporting the health care workforce.

From the standpoint of Klamath County, HB 4074 is a pragmatic, targeted solution that strengthens our regional health system and helps ensure that Sky Lakes can continue to meet the needs of the community it serves.

I respectfully urge your support for House Bill 4074. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelley Minty".

Kelley Minty

Chair, Klamath County Board of Commissioners

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