



Date: February 24, 2026

To: House Rules

From: Emily McLain, Oregon Education Association

Subject: HB 4075

Use of the Common School Fund is a Major Decision

Chair Bowman, Vice Chairs Elmer and Pham,

My name is Emily McLain here on behalf of the Oregon Education Association. I am here to share our perspectives on HB 4075. Our perspective includes a recognition that our members care deeply about, and advocate for access to healthcare. We share in the concern that the sponsors have expressed. All our communities must have access to healthcare. Our opposition to using the common school fund in this way is about ensuring students and schools maintain access to resources they rely on and that we protect those resources from risk. This proposal is a significant public policy change that must be considered holistically. This is unprecedented and present concern for the future use of the Common School fund in abnormal ways.

Oregon's Common School Fund provides millions of dollars every year to K-12 public schools. Every one of Oregon's 197 public school districts receives money from the Common School Fund every year, with a maximum annual distribution rate of 3.5 percent of the Fund. Distributions in recent years have ranged from a low of \$13 million in 2004 to a high of \$76.8 million in 2025.

The impact of HR 1 is sobering. The state of affairs in healthcare access is sobering. This bill unfortunately presents a false and inappropriate choice. It is not healthcare or schools. It is not hospital beds or desks.

What alternatives exist to ensure this hospital does not decrease its capacity for the community? What local, federal, or regional options for backing a loan exist. Our colleagues from OSBA and COSA have shared this is not just a small annual expense, it is an added liability that could result in tens of millions in liability and potential loss to the common school fund. OEA members know that there is not enough revenue in our state for all the essential services we need. That is what the legislature needs to work on.