



Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

April 6, 2020

Governor Brown,

Oregonians are experiencing an unprecedented crisis. During this time of emergency, the integrity and reliability of our health care system is currently at risk and immediate action must be taken to preserve it. Oregon's hospitals are experiencing record losses in revenue due to the restrictions on elective procedures. While it is understood the basis for these decisions are to conserve personal protective equipment (PPE) the unintended consequences are currently forcing hospitals to face the very real decision to lay off staff because there is no money for payroll. The domino effect is devastating our entire health care system. Investments in PPE is one of the most critical actions needed to protect our frontline healthcare workers, our families, first responders and all essential workers across this state. While we wait for PPE to be shipped from FEMA we must purchase more than needed for the pandemic, so that there is also enough to reinstate elective surgeries as soon as possible for Oregonians and our struggling health care facilities.

Many of our smaller and rural hospitals are on the verge of closing their doors. The longer the PPE shortage and prohibition on elective surgeries lasts, the harder it will be for our health care system to recover from the significant financial impacts of this pandemic.

Funding and additional support for those struggling within our healthcare system is critically needed now to ensure hospitals maintain an adequate workforce, provide essential services and remain viable long term.

The House Republican Caucus requests immediate action on these items to protect the health, life and safety of Oregonians and the integrity of the healthcare system.

- \$50 million for the state to purchase necessary PPE, supplies and equipment to distribute free of charge directly to hospitals utilizing Oregon Emergency Management procurement and distribution mechanisms.
- \$200 million for a Hospital Stabilization Fund to be allocated directly to hospitals to address initial urgent needs so hospitals, particularly small and rural hospitals, can provide services and remain viable.
- Dedicated resources to help analyze, assist and navigate healthcare systems eligible for the Federal CARES ACT.

Oregon House Republicans will continue to stand with you to work to support our healthcare providers and frontline workers to protect the health, life and safety of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

House Republican Leader Christine Dragan