

REPRESENTATIVE ZACH HUDSON

PRESS RELEASE



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Contact: Caleb Hayes | 503-910-2284 | rep.zachhudson@oregonlegislature.gov

East County Democrats Efforts Lead to Hospital Service Continuation Across Oregon

OHA adopts key components of legislation introduced by Rep. Zach Hudson to keep Legacy Mt. Hood birthing center open.

Salem, OR — **Reps. Zach Hudson** (D-East Multnomah County) and **Ricki Ruiz** (D-Gresham) and **Sen. Chris Gorsek** (D-Gresham) applauded OHA for implementing policies that prevent the closure of health systems providing care to Oregonians.

“Losing the Legacy Mount Hood birth center would have been devastating for families in East County and beyond. I was proud to work with members of our community, Legacy nurses, and the Oregon Health Authority to stop Legacy from closing the birth center. And I’ve introduced legislation to make it much harder for hospitals to shut down key services like it in the future,” said **Rep. Hudson**. “This is a major victory for Oregonians’ ability to access healthcare in their communities.”

During the 2023 legislative session, Reps. Hudson and Ruiz, and Sen. Gorsek introduced legislation that included a new requirement that OHA examine and report on community needs in its policy process, with a focus on improving outcomes for our least-served Oregonians. This resulted in OHA adopting the policy into their rules this week.

“We must find solutions to provide comprehensive services to our constituents. That includes ensuring that resources like the Legacy Mt. Hood’s birthing center continues to serve their communities. I applaud the Oregon Health Authority and my East County delegation for their continued work on this” said Representative Ricki Ruiz.

“No one organization should be able to deprive our community of its only birth center without some comprehensive review process,” said **Sen. Gorsek**. “The Oregon Health Authority has made an important step towards protecting our community.”

The new equity analysis requirement in the OHA rulemaking process will further protect access to healthcare in communities in East County and across Oregon.

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