



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 2026

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4075 -A ^{SS}

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Today I voted no on HB 4075, the funding measure for the Bay Area Hospital. I recognize that the Bay Area Hospital faces serious financial strain. This is also true for many other Oregon hospitals. It is essential to and an integral part of its community where it provides quality and comprehensive healthcare for the residents of Coos Bay that could not be easily replaced.

However, HB 4075 seeks to address this real need by taking funding from the State of Oregon Unclaimed Property and Estates Fund. The interest from the fund is meant to support schools across the State of Oregon. While the Bay Area Hospital is a crucial fixture in the Coos Bay Area, it is irresponsible to rob Peter to pay Paul. The \$44 million loan given to the Hospital will reduce the amount of funding given to every school district in Oregon. The Salem-Keizer School District, whose area includes my whole district, already faces tens of millions of dollars of budget cuts for the next school year. Given the significant budgetary challenges already facing our schools, challenges which are only expected to grow, I cannot support this measure which would only exacerbate these issues.

Had the funding for the Bay Area Hospital come from a source not allocated to a specific purpose, such as the Rainy Day Fund, I would have been pleased to support this bill. The fiscal outlook for many rural hospitals will deteriorate in the future. Rural communities are aging rapidly, and their hospitals must handle the stress created by these expanded healthcare needs. If the Legislature supports the use of the Unclaimed Property and Estates Fund in this case, I am concerned that other distressed rural hospitals will seek to use this funding source. Eventually, this funding source will be depleted without the underlying issue actually being resolved. I want to support the Bay Area Hospital and other vital rural hospitals that face significant financial distress, exacerbated by the Trump administration's reckless changes to our already fragile Medicare system. However, we cannot solve this real problem by exacerbating our schools' funding shortfalls. The actual solution to this problem must be statewide.

Sincerely,


State Representative Tom Andersen, HD-19

