

FARRAH CHAICHI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 35



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 6, 2026

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

Vote Explanation on HB 4075 **A**

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

This bill was a struggle for many of us in this body. We have unfortunately pitted education against healthcare with this bill. As much as I agree with my colleagues that this bill sets a bad precedent of impacting education funding, I also recognize that the continued closure of hospitals, particularly in rural areas, will result in lives lost. I have heard that borrowing against our unclaimed property funds may result in litigation and that there is significant risk of default given the financial status of the hospital. Ultimately, this conversation boils down to saving lives. But I would like to point out that we are engaging in a dangerous and counterproductive false dichotomy: we can either fund healthcare or education.

I unequivocally reject this. We have been fumbling through conversations on Universal Healthcare, an initiative that is overwhelmingly supported by Oregonians. The public/private hybrid system that we use to fund hospitals and healthcare does not work. This bill is a band-aid on a bullet wound. We will continue to be asked to rob Peter to pay Paul if we do not have serious conversations about how we can sustainably fund the services that Oregonians need and deserve.

I voted "aye," on HB 4075, with the understanding that it is a flawed bill, with a flawed funding mechanism, addressing a fundamental flaw in our healthcare system. But I did so because first and foremost, we have a duty to our constituents to do everything we can to keep them alive and healthy.

Respectfully,

Representative Farrah Chaichi, House District 35

