



FROM THE OFFICES OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE OREGON SENATE
&
SPEAKER OF THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Maintaining Health Care Access, Responding to Wildfire Damage Focus for Legislative Action

*Wildfire clean-up and barriers to health care access require immediate action
by the Emergency Board committee during upcoming legislative days*

SALEM, Ore. – Today, legislative leadership announced that the [Joint Emergency Board committee](#) will meet November 18 to address time-sensitive, critical needs relating to wildfire clean-up and barriers to health care access in Oregon.

The allocations from the state's emergency funds will ensure that Oregonians can access reproductive health care services, medical professionals receive payment for providing care to adults in custody, and residents of Wasco County can rebuild from the Rowena Fire.

The Legislative Fiscal Office is recommending allocations totaling \$18.3 million. Identification of emergencies needing legislative response was done in coordination with Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek's office.

"With the actions of the Trump administration harming Oregon's budget and economy, there is significant need for resources across many aspects of state and local government," said **Senate President Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)**. "Protecting health care access — especially reproductive health care for women across Oregon — and supporting wildfire recovery are critical areas where the state must step up and bridge gaps in funding until further conversations can happen in the 2026 legislative session."

Earlier this year, the Trump administration politically targeted Planned Parenthood by banning the nonprofit from receiving Medicaid service payments for one year. To ensure Oregonians maintain access to reproductive health care services, the Oregon Health Authority is slated to receive \$7.5 million to continue Oregon Health Plan and Oregon Contraceptive Care payments to Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette and Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon for Medicaid eligible services.

Services can include prenatal care, STD testing and treatment, cancer screenings, and birth control. Federal Medicaid dollars are not permitted to pay for abortion services, so neither will these emergency funds.

Planned Parenthood nonprofits operate 11 health centers in Oregon and are the largest provider of reproductive health services in the state.

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management is also set to receive \$2.5 million to support the removal of wildfire-related debris and ash from personal property in Wasco County following the Rowena Fire.

Unincorporated areas of Wasco County experienced significant damage from the fire in June, including the destruction of around 70 homes and numerous vehicles and outbuildings. Gov. Kotek declared a statewide emergency in response to the fire, but the incident did not meet the threshold for federal assistance or resources.

OEM will provide financial and technical support for debris removal, carried out by the county, which will allow residents to rebuild. These emergency funds will be drawn from the special purpose appropriation for natural disaster relief established as part of the current state budget.

Lastly, the Department of Corrections has requested \$8.3 million to pay for a backlog of unpaid 2023-25 biennium invoices for health care services provided to adults in custody. Actual expenses for medical care exceeded agency projections from the 2025 legislative session.

By law, agencies must pay all expenses and close their financial books on the 2023-2025 biennium by the end of the calendar year to allow for audits and reviews, making it necessary for the Emergency Board to act before the 2026 legislative session. The Department of Corrections has implemented additional checks to improve its validation and processing of invoices for health care services.

"Once again, Oregonians find themselves in the position of having to confront the consequences of the Trump administration's deliberate attacks on our health care system and our communities," said **House Speaker Julie Fahey (D-Eugene)**. "These investments ensure that patients can continue to access essential reproductive care, families can rebuild after a devastating wildfire, and adults in custody can receive the medical care to which they're legally entitled. In these volatile times, Oregon leaders are putting our communities first."

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