

# OAFP Weekly Report

Week ending February 24, 2023

## Capitol Climate

The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis published the [March revenue forecast](#) this week. According to the state economists, either “the economic storm clouds have parted, or we are in the eye of the hurricane.”

While Oregon's weather trends are unusually frosty, the economic trends are warming up. Recession fears for this biennium are subsiding. Inflation is starting to slow. Revenues for 2021-23 biennium are way up, crushing expectations and leaving Oregon with a large ending fund balance. With both corporate and personal tax collections unexpectedly soaring, we have far surpassed Oregon's 2% kicker threshold. Taxpayers are expected to receive a whopping \$3.9 billion back into their pockets in the 2024 tax year — twice as high as any previous kickers. With the improving economic outlook, policymakers are expected to have additional General Fund revenues available as they craft the 2023-25 budget — which have increased by more than \$714 million since the last forecast was published. This gives the budget co-chairs more money to spend than the Governor had when she published her recommended budget, which is good news for our state services and those who rely on them.

However, the legislature will have to balance the final 2023-25 budget to the June revenue forecast, which will come out on **May 17**. We're also keeping our eyes out for the publication of the Ways and Means Roadshow hearings, which will give Oregonians the opportunity to share their priorities for the state budget. We expect that schedule to be released next month.

To read what legislative offices are saying about the latest forecast, [click here](#). You can also learn more about the forecast from the [Oregonian](#), [OPB](#), the [Statesman Journal](#) or [elsewhere online](#).

## Committee Hearing Report outs

*House Business and Labor*  
02/20/2023

A public hearing was held on [HB 2277](#) (removes the exemption from licensure for a Third Party Administrator who operates on behalf of self-insured employers and clarifies that the insurer is responsible for activities of TPAs that the insurer has contracted with for plan administration). The Division of Financial Regulation introduced the bill and explained that the bill is intended to help with the numerous complaints they receive regarding TPAs. Rep. Osborne asked if it is possible to make this change under the federal [ERISA](#) statute. DFR said they do

have the authority to make this change but all later testimony (from PacificSource, Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield, Oregon Association of Health Underwriters, and OBI) countered that DFR did not have the authority.

#### *Joint WAM Human Services*

*02/20/2022*

An informational hearing from OHA was held on updates for Medicaid and CHIP benefits, as well as [SB 5525](#): regarding OHA's biennial expenses. The presentation broke down Medicaid vs. Medicare, CHIP benefits, Coordinated Care Organization (CCOs), Statewide Fee-for-Service (FFS), as well as the 1115 Medicare Waiver. OHA mentioned the top 3 priorities for OHA include housing, climate, and nutrition based care. Representative Diehl and Representative Goodwin asked a few questions regarding these priorities and where to draw the line for indirect health-related priorities, to which OHA cited the social determinants of health being of importance. Senator Gelsler Blouin expressed her excitement for the Medicare Waivers.

#### *House Behavioral Health and Health Care*

*02/21/2022*

A lengthy public hearing was held on [HB 2742](#) (Excludes certain costs from consideration as total health expenditures for purposes of Health Care Cost Growth Target program) during which various questions regarding the true scope of the bill. There was no public testimony. A public hearing was held on [HB 2091](#) (Delays penalties under Health Care Cost Growth Target program until 2026) during which the only question asked was regarding the 2026 date. OHA recommended that the 2026 date be put in statute. After 2 public testimonies were given Chair Nosse closed the hearing and commented ([@ 1:01:25](#)) about his unsure feelings regarding these two bills and warned insurance companies that if they don't change their ways health insurance might become be taken over by the government (alluding to SB 704.)

#### *House Behavioral Health and Health Care*

*02/22/2022*

Work session on [HB 2395](#) (Requires Oregon Health Authority to study substance use.) The [-6 amendment](#) was adopted and the bill will move to the floor with a do pass recommendation. These decisions were unanimously approved (Rep Morgan was excused), Rep Dexter will carry the bill.

## **Coalition Meeting Report**

*AHO Policy Check-In*

02/22/2023

The members shared updates on their priority bills. Oregon Justice Resource Center shared that [SB 520](#) (compassionate release) is likely to move forward this year, the fiscal has been the main holdback in previous years, but it is not anticipated to be an issue this session. The Oregon Public Health Association is asking for people to sign this [endorsement form](#) for [HB 2918](#) (mobile health units relating to declaring racism a public health crisis) and [HB 2925](#) (health equity relating to declaring racism a public health crisis). Health Care for All Oregon shared that the public hearing on [SB 704](#) (universal health care) was overwhelmingly supportive and there were 300 letters posted in support.

## The Week Ahead

*Senate Health Care*

02/27/2023 1:00 PM

[SB 704](#): Relating to universal health care; declaring an emergency.

*Work Session*

*Senate Health Care*

03/01/2023 1:00 PM

[SB 490](#): Relating to family medicine residency training programs; prescribing an effective date. ORCA-FM bill.

*Public Hearing*

*House Behavioral Health and Health Care*

03/06/2023 3:00 PM

[HB 3157](#): Relating to health care coverage; prescribing an effective date.

Establishes Health Insurance Mandate Review Advisory Committee.

*Public Hearing*

[HB 2486](#): Relating to pharmacy technicians; declaring an emergency. Allows pharmacy technicians under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines.

*Work Session*

*House Behavioral Health and Health Care*

03/08/2023 3:00 PM

[HB 2235](#): Relating to behavioral health. Rural behavioral health services assessment/study.

*Public Hearing*