



OAFP Weekly Report

Week ending March 17, 2023

Capitol Climate

Shakespeare said it, Julius Caesar suffered it, and the Oregon Legislature is about to reenact it – *Beware of The Ides of March*

Former Senator John Minnis once provided a little education on this practice to a freshman legislator. When the legislator saw his bill had been posted for a hearing and work session, he sprinted to the committee room to testify, only to see the bill was being amended to something beyond his recognition. When he asked Minnis what he was doing to his bill, Sen. Minnis replied, "It was your bill, but it's my bill now."

Some bills will be placed in cold storage, perhaps to be retrieved and thawed in the waning days of the session. These are the bills mysteriously moved from one committee to another before the midnight hour strikes. Some are controversial bills, potential trading pieces for end-of-session negotiation. Others are reserve stock to serve as last-minute replacements for important bills that somehow fall off the tracks. These can end up on the storage shelves of the Rules, Ways & Means, or Finance & Revenue committees, which will remain operational long after other policy committees have closed up shop. A bill's resurrection can happen when the public and even legislators least expect it. In this case, the soothsayer may wish to warn us all to 'Beware the Ides of June.'

There is an adage that nobody in the state is safe until the legislature adjourns. Vigilance is mandatory. The impending death of hundreds of bills does not mean the end of the excitement. It simply narrows the playing field and gives greater clarity to the remaining battles.

Committee Hearing Report outs

Joint Subcommittee On Human Services

03/13/2023-03/16/2023

The Oregon Health Authority began their budget bill [presentation](#) ([SB 5525](#)). Day one focused on Health Systems Division for Behavioral Health OHA and the Division's goals (disrupt the harmful and expensive homelessness-jail-hospital pipeline, decrease preventable deaths related to a substance use and behavioral health needs, & stabilize, support, and diversify the behavioral health workforce.) Rep Diehl asked many questions regarding what the KPMs they are measuring, as well as what hard data they have from the harm reduction studies done & youth suicide statistics. OHA representatives will follow up with those answers. Day 2 focused on OHA's Central Services & Health Systems Division where there was public testimony from United We Heal Training Trust, Nurse-Family Partnership, Lincoln County Public Health, Association of Oregon Community Mental Health, Children's Institute, Disability Rights Oregon, New Narrative, Addictions Recovery Center, Nurse-Family Partnership, & Deschutes County Health Services. All of which seem to be supportive of the direction the committee is taking in regards to this agency budget bill.

Day 3 the Oregon State Hospital [presented](#) their programs (stopping the homeless to jail to hospital pipeline, and supporting local communities to offer mental health and addiction services.):

- The Aid and Assist program makes up 58% of the hospital's total population and 90% of admissions. (Rep. Diehl repeatedly clearly wants additional staffing for OSH and is supportive of more residential treatment facilities).
- OSH highlighted the federal court order (effective 9/1/22) that put timelines on length of stay which they believe may not be enough time for rehabilitation. Rep. Goodwin is concerned about releasing "dangerous" people back into society.
- POP 402 (specialized treatment services and supports) is an ask of \$3.5M to advance equity and inclusion, support cultural changes to eliminate health inequities, and helps patients with diverse backgrounds to connect with the community.

Senate Health Care

03/13/2023

- Work Sessions
 - [SB 191](#) (which requires Oregon Health Authority to study fee-for-service medical assistance recipients' access to health care providers in rural areas of this state.) was scheduled but the [-2 amendment](#) was not ready and no action was taken.
 - [SB 972](#) (that requires Oregon Health Authority to transition from healthcare.gov to state-based marketplace by November 1, 2026.) had a motion that passed 3-2 (Sens. Hayden & Bonham voted no given their reservations about standing up a state based marketplace.)
- Public Hearings
 - [SB 450](#) (which exempts from labeling requirements drug intended to reverse opioid overdose when drug is dispensed by physician or physician assistant) was presented by Sen Bonham and was followed by support from a Clinical Pharmacist; Sen Hayden asked how Narcan (or anything similar) would be recorded on someone's medical record (It would be added to their medication list).

Senate Labor and Business

03/14/2023

[SB 849](#) work session: introduced the [-1 amendment](#) that modifies eligibility requirements to obtain limited license to practice medicine under supervision of licensed physician. Modifies process for determining grant award amounts within the Internationally Educated Workforce Reentry Grant Program (Grant Program). Changes definition of "eligible profession" for purposes of Grant Program. Fiscal impact is related to the \$20m appropriation for the workforce reentry grant program. -1 amendment was adopted and the bill passed out of Committee. Sen. Bonham expressed concern about the cost but supports the policy concept.

House Behavioral Health and Health Care

03/14/2023

A Public Hearing on [HB 2455](#) (which imposes requirements and restrictions on insurer and coordinated care organization audits of claims for reimbursement submitted by behavioral health treatment providers) was held, Chair Nosse gave remarks about mental healthcare professionals as equals to other healthcare

professionals and should be paid as such. Other than people representing insurance companies (like Coalition for a Healthy Oregon, Cambia Health Solutions & PacificSource Health Plans) every other interest group or individual that provided testimony (like Oregon Mental Health Providers, Megan Vaughn Therapy, Oregon Independent, Intentional Journeys Counseling and Consulting LLC, & Health Allies Counseling) hold the bill in high regard for creating pay equity, a concept that Chair Nosse has been advocating for since last long session.

Senate Health Care

03/15/2023

During the public hearing, [SB 966](#) was discussed, which requires the Oregon Health Authority to adopt standards for data collection in their all payer, all claims database that aligns with current standards for race, ethnicity, language, disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Trilby de Jung and Stacey Schubert from OHA gave a [presentation](#) on the bill. Another bill, [SB 967](#), was also discussed, which allows the OHA to reimburse coordinated care organizations using payment methods other than global budgets in certain cases. Stacey Schubert and Chelsea Guest [presented](#) on the bill, but testimony from the Intercommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization, Yamhill Community Care, Dental Care Organizations, AllCare Health, and PacificSource Community Solutions showed a lot of neutral and opposing viewpoints on the bill. No one testifying supported the bill, indicating it will require significant amendments to be successful for a work session. The work session on [SB 704](#) was removed from the agenda due to two absent or late Democratic Senators.

Floor Activity

[SB 216](#): Relating to data collected by the Oregon Health Authority; prescribing an effective date. Prohibits sharing identifiable information.

03/13/2023

Third reading. Carried by Campos. Passed. Sen. Hayden spoke against the bill regarding sharing privileged data without explicit consent from the patient. Sen. Patterson spoke in support and clarified the bill would only ask for patients to voluntarily share country of origin.

16 Yes, 13 No, 1 Excused

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

03/14/2023

Third reading. Carried by Nosse. Passed without discussion.

48 Yes, 9 No, 3 Excused

Coalition Meeting Report

AHO Policy Check-In

Did not attend this week's meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

The Week Ahead

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

03/20/2023 8:00 AM

[HB 5525](#): Relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Health Authority; declaring an emergency.

Information Meeting

Senate Health Care

03/20/2023 1:00 PM

[SB 916](#): Relating to public health. Study bill, likely a placeholder.

Work Session

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

Work Session

[SB 450](#): Relating to opioids. Exempts from labeling requirements drug intended to reverse opioid overdose when drug is dispensed by physician or physician assistant.

Work Session

[SB 564](#): Relating to regional health equity coalitions; declaring an emergency.

Work Session

House Behavioral Health and Health Care

03/20/2023 3:00 PM

[HB 2002](#): Relating to health; declaring an emergency. Modifies provisions relating to access to reproductive health care and gender-affirming treatment.

Work Session

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

03/21/2023 8:00 AM

[HB 5525](#): Relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Health Authority; declaring an emergency.

Information Meeting

House Behavioral Health and Health Care

03/21/2023 5:00 PM

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

Work Session

[HB 2455](#): Relating to audits of claims for reimbursement of the costs of behavioral health treatment; prescribing an effective date.

Work Session

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

Establishes Health Insurance Mandate Review Advisory Committee.

Work Session

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

03/22/2023 8:00 AM

[HB 5525](#): Relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Health Authority; declaring an emergency.

Information Meeting

Senate Health Care

03/22/2023 1:00 PM

[SB 967](#): Relating to health care; declaring an emergency. Replaces current Medicaid committees and create a blended committee

Work Session

[SB 968](#): Relating to systems of care. Study bill on different systems of care in Oregon.

Work Session

Senate Judiciary

03/22/2023 1:00 PM

[SB 376](#): Relating to insurance. Study will with no amendment yet, possibly a placeholder.

Public Hearing

House Behavioral Health and Health Care

03/22/2023 3:00 PM

[HB 2878](#): Relating to paying for health care. Establishes Aligning for Health Pilot Program to test alternative methods for payment for health care.

Public Hearing

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

03/22/2023 8:00 AM

[HB 5525](#): Relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Health Authority; declaring an emergency.

Public Hearing