



OANP ~ 2025 Legislative Briefing

Prepared for: **OANP Legislative & Advocacy Committee**

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Legislature

At a Glance:

January 21 - Session Convenes Feb 28 & May 14 - Revenue Forecast

June 18 - Target Sine Die¹ June 29 - Constitutional Sine Die

June 27 - Actual Sine Die

Democrats held a supermajority in both chambers prior to cancer diagnoses for a couple of members. Now their margins have narrowed, most notably in the House where taxes and increases must originate according to the constitution. In this environment Moderate Dems became a powerful voting bloc and leveraged their power to send bills back to committee, denying yes votes on the floor. This forced the Democrat's leadership to search high and low for a Republican or two to "cross over" in order to be successful and that horse-trading mission was not always accomplished. The absolutely austere budget cycle has devastated safety net services like schools meals for all, eviction prevention funds or funding for domestic violence shelters. Several major policies hung in the balance in the final weeks: transportation/roads package; gun policy reforms; climate programming; funding for medicaid patients...

The Loyal Opposition in the meanwhile, appeared organized and buoyed but eh federal landscape. Utilizing all of the tools in their minority party tool box save one (a walk off) they were successful in slowing the pace of floor votes, outright defeating legislation on the floor, bringing the profile of the Trump administration into debate. Republicans worked against the supermajority in a way that strengthened their hand. More Republican bills were advanced this session out of their originating committees than in recent memory. Many of those bills represented discussions that have been waiting in the wings and take on new life with a conservative Congress. Of course, very few of them made it over the final finish line.

All the while Oregon one of the "sanctuary states" being targeted by the federal government, resulting in the loss of billions of dollars - compounded by the loss of one-time federal COVID and Recovery Act funds. We should expect there to be some push-coming-to-shove with the interplay between Oregon's laws and federal requirements - it is hard to say how that will impact the experience of Oregonians broadly, but this dynamic will certainly continue to strain the budget into 2027-29. Oregon's savings account is of course being protected for the future, but ways and means leaders and presiding officers were required by law to craft a durable budget that will get them through to the next legislative session in February regardless of projections.

¹Sine Die is the final adjournment of the session

Legislative Interim Committee Days, likely in the second week of September and December of 2025, will conduct informational committee hearings and such, but no votes will be held. We may expect a Special Session before the end of July to tackle the transportation package that crash-landed as session was closing. This will likely be called by the Governor in an attempt to avoid union layoffs at the Dept. of Transportation. We may also expect some activity at the Emergency Board, as a means of ensuring that agencies and government functions are monitored and funded as necessary.

You may expect here in Oregon, that the Executive branch and the other statewide elected offices are also controlled by Democrats. That fact has not necessarily translated to a lot of support or camaraderie within the legislative process. The Governor, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, Labor Commissioner are all making hay by bucking the federal government's mandates and executive orders, focusing on federal lawsuits and executing on audits of state agencies.

The 2025 long Session in Salem clocked in at just under 6 months, adjourning on June 27th at 11:30p. This session legislators introduced a record breaking number of bills - tipping over 4000 - and yet a record low number of bills worked their way through process. All of this tumult may have already marred any wins they'll try to claim on the campaign trail.

Legislators

The Legislative Bench

We've relied heavily on a few key legislators in our path through the process so far. Both Ds and Rs are champions for OANP, with the strongest voices as proof of fact that the key contact/advocacy network works. Broadly speaking, we have leaned on Republicans in both the NE & SW corner of the state such as Reps. Bobby Levy and Court Boice, Sen. Noah Robinson. Democrats who are serving on the Health Care Committees, as well as long-standing friends like Rep. Jeff Helfrich and Sen. Kate Lieber have important influences on our (pending) success. This advocacy network is poised to be even more robust with additional voices joining up as NDs across the state have self-selected into activism by joining our Advocacy Matters! workshop series this session. Those conversations and communications from NDs into legislative offices makes a difference in both the short and the long term.

Legislation Priority: Pay Parity

HB 3439 - Pay Parity for NDs in Commercial Plans:

For another session OANP's priority legislation for Pay Parity did not get passed. Clearly this is disappointing and means that commercial insurance companies can continue to starve your clinics unchecked by the watchdogs in government. Factors from prior session - including struggling relationships with legislators in positions of power - were NOT a factor this time, as we enjoyed a great deal of support from leaders. These leaders, however, had their hands tied by aforementioned budget constraints. Most importantly was the mandate against funding new programming. HB 3439 would impact the cost to the state for their sponsored health plans, making it a new expense. This was, we are told, the

sole issue in passing the bill this session. We worked every angle of advocacy we could think of to surmount this mandate, including discussing savings from prevention! In the end the \$4M price tag appears to have tanked the bill. Did you know that funding our program would cost the state only 50-cents per Oregonian, but would save millions in downstream health care costs? It feels as if each session there is some other reason not to approve our request for fundamental fairness in reimbursements and the ultimate consequences, sadly, will be felt by patients in the end.

Legislation Summary

HB 2365 - Rural Tax Incentive Program:

Adds mental health professionals, naturopathic physicians, pharmacists, medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians to the types of providers eligible for the tax credit allowed to rural medical care providers. Removes the requirement of hospital consulting privileges applicable to an optometrist claiming the credit. Applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

CURRENTLY: in House Revenue upon adjournment (died in committee).

POSITION: Support

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day, testimony

HB 2585 - Scope of Practice Review Commission:

Directs the Oregon Health Authority to establish a process to receive and review scope of practice requests for specified health care professions. Requires the authority to report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health care. Becomes operative July 1, 2026. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

CURRENTLY: in chamber and committee of origin at first deadline (dead).

POSITION: Oppose

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day

HB 3042 - Clarification on OBNM Disciplinary Measures:

Specifies reasons for which the Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine may impose discipline on a licensee. Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

CURRENTLY: Governor has signed (enacted).

POSITION: Neutral, then Support

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day, testimony

[HB 3134](#) - Transparency in Prior Authorization Processes:

Tells some insurers to report more data to DCBS and makes rules about prior authorization for some procedures by a set date. Creates restrictions for prior authorization requirements during certain surgical procedures for insurers offering a health benefit plan. Requires certain insurers offering a health benefit plan to implement a prior authorization programming interface by January 1, 2027.

CURRENTLY: Governor has signed (enacted).

POSITION: Support

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day, testimony

[HB 3439](#) - Pay Parity for NDs:

Makes insurers pay naturopathic doctors the same as an MD, PA or NP when do the same work. Requires individual and group health plans offered by PEBB and OEBC to reimburse naturopathic services at parity. Goes into effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

CURRENTLY: in Ways & Means upon adjournment (dead).

POSITION: Support

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day, email campaigns, phone calls, testimony

[SB 42](#) - Funding to Vaccine Access Program at OHA:

Appropriates moneys to the OHA for the Vaccine Access Program.

CURRENTLY: in Ways & Means upon adjournment (dead).

POSITION: Support

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day

[SB 609](#) - Reimbursement Floor for Medicaid:

Establishes minimum amounts of reimbursement for primary care, optometry, dental care and behavioral health services provided to recipients of medical assistance. **Does not include NDs** in the definition of provider.

CURRENTLY: in Ways & Means upon adjournment (dead).

POSITION: Oppose

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: direct lobbying, advocacy day

[SB 5524](#) - OBNM Biennial Budget & Fee Schedule Approval:

This act creates and approves the budget for the OBNM biennial budget years 2025 to 2027. Effective on passage.

CURRENTLY: Governor has signed (enacted).

POSITION: Monitor

ADVOCACY ACTIONS: N/A