

2026



ONA LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A MESSAGE FROM ONA'S LEGISLATIVE TEAM	3
ONA'S TWO SESSION PRIORITIES SUCCESSFUL	4
SPECIAL FOCUS: IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PACKAGE	6
ADDITIONAL BILLS WE SUPPORTED	7
ADDITIONAL BILLS OF INTEREST	9
HOW TO GET INVOLVED	10

A MESSAGE FROM ONA'S LEGISLATIVE TEAM



Every short legislative session is a demanding spring, and the 32-day 2026 Legislative Session was no different. For ONA, our thrusts were twofold: Stand up for our members and their patients against federal immigration influence in hospital rooms and defend our landmark safe staffing law. We were successful in both!

For the 2027 session, ONA's Cabinet on Health Policy will, as always, set ONA's legislative agenda. Discussions are already active about preserving Medicaid coverage for vulnerable Oregonians, advancing towards a state universal health plan, and continuing to defeat hospitals' desired rollbacks to the safe staffing law.

The following report details our priority legislation, our successes, and areas we need to continue our advocacy. You can read bills, bill summaries, testimony, and watch public hearings and floor votes online [by following this link.](#)

ONA'S TWO SESSION PRIORITIES SUCCESSFUL

SB 1570: Passing the Healthcare Without Fear Act

PASSED!

After ONA members at Legacy Emanuel experienced federal immigration officers bringing detainees to receive care and those officers' interference with that necessary care, ONA worked with lawmakers to introduce and pass SB 1570, which set clear rules for law enforcement access and protects patient information, including immigration status. SB 1570 provides clear protocols for interfacing with law enforcement, protects staff from retaliation, and helps maintain safe, uninterrupted care environments.

The overall purpose of the law is simple: to ensure that all individuals feel safe seeking health care & providing care, regardless of immigration status. ONA members and national health policy experts widely recognize that fear of immigration enforcement can lead some patients to delay care, avoid hospitals entirely, and decline to provide accurate information needed for treatment. By strengthening privacy protections and clarifying procedures, the law aims to ensure that hospitals remain trusted places for care and that nurses and clinicians can provide the best possible care.



ONA'S TWO SESSION PRIORITIES SUCCESSFUL

HB 4074: Defending the Safe Staffing Law

In the 2023 legislative session, ONA and partners collaborated to champion patient safety and healthcare worker retention by passing HB 2697, which enacted an enforceable hospital staffing system with staffing plans, minimum nurse-to-patient ratios, and complaint-driven enforcement. To be clear: This law is working. ONA members and healthcare workers are filing staffing complaints when hospitals violate the law, and the Oregon Health Authority is investigating and issuing citations for those complaints. In Oregon's hospitals, our members are enjoying stronger input in their hospital staffing plans, leading to increased patient safety and fewer accounts of moral injury and burnout.

Unfortunately, almost immediately since the law passed, hospitals have been seeking to roll it back, citing undue expense for hospitals accruing fines and a lack of dispute resolution for some circumstances where staffing committees reach impasse. This session was no different: At the request of the Hospital Association, a legislator introduced HB 4074 in the 2026 session.

HB 4074 would have functionally repealed HB 2697 by chiseling away at major core components. Some of the most problematic goals of HB 4074 included allowing hospital management to unilaterally adopt staffing plans, allowing minimum safe staffing standards to be a default, delaying the implementation of a stronger medical-surgical ratio, allowing hospitals to avoid supplying OHA with certain basic documentation that they are following the law, and canceling all fines against hospitals until 2030.

ONA members stood strong and HB 4074 did not pass. However, hospitals will continue to reduce our safe staffing strength and continued defense of HB 2697 will likely be necessary during the 2027 session.

SPECIAL FOCUS: IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PACKAGE

Advocates for civil rights and workers combined forces to advance several bills this session in support of immigrant communities. ONA supported this Immigrant Justice Package which included SB 1570, discussed above. The package included 13 proposals which sought crucial investments in legal services, food assistance, and healthcare. Some of the policies in the package took aim at protecting civil rights and data privacy, others at safeguarding schools, others at holding ICE accountable by requiring identification and banning masks on law enforcement agents. All the policy bills passed except for a proposed prohibition of public contracts going to companies that participate in family separation. Funding requests including school meals and additional anti-hunger did not fully meet the immigrant justice coalition's requests.



ADDITIONAL BILLS WE SUPPORTED

* **SB 1507 – FEDERAL TAX CODE DISCONNECT**

PASSED!

SB 1507 disconnects Oregon from automatically mirroring some tax loopholes in Trump's HR1 and helps Oregon recoup \$311.6 million in funding programs. While SB 1507 does not close our current budget gap or go as far as we hoped, it's a critical first step in balancing Oregon's budget.

* **HB 4093 – DISABILITY PROTECTIONS IN EMPLOYMENT**

DID NOT PASS

Rep. Travis Nelson RN introduced this bill to improve ways that people with disabilities can be strong members of Oregon's workforce, including in making reasonable accommodations and in hiring processes.

* **HB 4018A – CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM TECHNICAL FIXES**

PASSED!

ONA has consistently been in coalition with labor partners to bring meaningful campaign finance limitations to Oregon that increase individual voter voices over powerful special interests. This short session bill ensured that the campaign finance legislation passed in 2024 can be implemented smoothly.

*** SB 1571 – REGULATING NICOTINE POUCHES****PASSED!**

While Oregon has added inhalant delivery systems commonly called vape pens to the list of nicotine products only to be sold to consumers 21 and over, nicotine pouches still could be sold to individuals of any age. SB 1571 fixed that public health problem.

*** HB 4147 – OREGON EMPLOYER MEDICAID TRANSPARENCY ACT****DID NOT PASS**

This narrow transparency bill will provide policymakers with important information as Oregon prepares for growing fiscal pressures in the health care system.

Federal changes enacted through the recent reconciliation law are expected to significantly reduce federal support for Medicaid over the coming decade. Analysis by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services estimates that, once fully implemented, federal policy changes could reduce Oregon's health and human services funding by more than \$12 billion, largely driven by Medicaid financing impacts. National analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation similarly estimates that more than 200,000 additional Oregonians could become uninsured by 2034 as these changes take effect.

Employment conditions are one of the most significant upstream drivers of Medicaid enrollment. When workers and their families lack access to affordable employer-sponsored health coverage, Medicaid often becomes the coverage source that fills the gap. Understanding those dynamics does not distract from Medicaid policy—it strengthens it. Policymakers cannot effectively manage a system if they do not understand the drivers of cost and coverage within it.

*** SB 1527 – INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING****PASSED!**

SB 1527 eliminates out-of-pocket costs associated with necessary follow-up testing and examinations resulting from cervical cancer screenings. When patients can access screening and follow-up care without financial barriers, they are far more likely to receive timely services which in turn prevent advanced disease and support healthier futures.

* **HB 4088 – SHIELD LAW IMPROVEMENTS**

PASSED!

Across the country, reproductive health care and gender-affirming care are under attack.

Federal agencies and out-of-state officials are increasingly attempting to criminalize care that remains legal in Oregon — targeting patients, providers, and even support staff. Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the Trump administration has moved aggressively to punish doctors and collect sensitive patient data. These actions threaten patient privacy, disrupt care, and create fear for providers simply doing their jobs.

Now is the time to strengthen protections for patients and health care providers. When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* it gave states broad leeway to restrict abortion or prohibit it altogether. Oregon must act now as out-of-state restrictions on health care for transgender individuals, who already face extreme barriers to accessing care.

HB 4088 ensures Oregon remains a safe place to receive and provide lawful health care — without fear of surveillance, retaliation, or political interference.

Through HB 4088, providers, now including midwives, are protected when performing gender affirming or reproductive healthcare. Photos, names, and gender markers of patients and providers receiving or providing this care are now protected health information.

ADDITIONAL BILLS OF INTEREST

* **HB 4075 - FUNDING BAY AREA HOSPITAL**

PASSED!

Oregon policymakers provided state funding to support continued operations at Bay Area Hospital where ONA members care for patients in Coos Bay, Oregon. Bay Area Hospital has faced unique solvency challenges including a large loan from an international bank that a previous Board of Directors authorized. HB 4075 was championed by Bay Area Hospital along with UFCW 555 and its members who also work at this hospital.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



You can stay in the loop and contribute to ONA's legislative actions by signing up for our Legislative Activists email [list here](#) or by scanning the QR code labeled below. Additionally, you can see this and previous legislative reports on the ONA website at www.OregonRN.org/Policy.



Mailing List QR



Policy Webpage QR