

2013 Oregon Legislative Session Wrap Up for OPHA

The 2013 legislative session (the 77th), which ended after a full weekend of hearings on Monday July 8, 2013, saw a number of bills passed relating to public health in Oregon. A total of 831 bills, memorials and resolutions passed through the legislature in the 77th session. There were continued efforts to expand access to affordable healthcare, especially in rural Oregon. Lawmakers approved a measure to create a scholarship program at Oregon Health and Science University for primary care providers who agree to practice in rural or underserved communities (SB 2). Additionally, lawmakers expanded a separate student loan repayment program for health care providers who practice in rural Oregon (SB 440). Lawmakers also took the next steps toward implementing the federal Affordable Care Act in 2014 and made significant new investments in statewide mental health treatment.

OPHA endorsed 14 bills this session. OPHA members provided testimony (written and oral) on endorsed bills and contacted our state legislators asking for their support of OPHA supported bills. While the entire slate of OPHA endorsed bills did not pass, a number of important pieces of legislation were passed and other bills, while not passed, made significant strides forward that will pay off in future sessions. In addition to supported public health policy, OPHA held a fantastic legislative lobby days in February where many members had the chance to hear from and speak to our elected officials. It should be noted that the OPHA reusable groceries bags handed out with apples during legislative visit days were used throughout the session by legislators! OPHA continues to increase our visibility in the legislative arena through all of these activities.

Some highlights of public health bills passed this session:

[HB 2216](#): Renews health care provider taxes on hospitals and long-term care facilities, leveraging federal funds to provide health care for an additional 220,000 Oregonians.

[HB 2348](#): Creates Task Force on Future of Public Health Services to study regionalization and consolidation of public health services and future of public health services in Oregon in order to make recommendations for legislation.

[HB 2445](#): Codifies a relationship between the State and school-based health centers (SBHCs); provides legislative direction and guidance to OHA in supporting the expansion and continuation of SBHCs; provides a statutory framework for incorporating SBHCs into health care transformation and coordinating reform efforts between education and health care; and 4) ensures that school based health centers that are not included in a CCO are reimbursed on a fee for service basis when providing care to students who are Oregon Health Plan recipients.

[HB 2649](#): Provides \$500,000 in grants monies to support Farm to School programs in Oregon's schools.

- [HB 2902](#)**: Enhances Oregon's health care workforce by giving nurse practitioners and physician assistant's pay equity with physicians for services.
- [HB 2992](#)**: Allows low-income mothers and seniors to use SNAP and WIC benefits to purchase fresh food at local farmer's markets and stands.
- [HB 3000](#)**: Keeps Oregon student's vision health strong by requiring public school students at age seven to have vision screening or eye examinations.
- [SB 2](#)**: Establishes the Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative to provide free tuition for OHSU medical students who commit to practice medicine in rural communities after graduation.
- [SB 132](#)**: Promotes healthier schools by requiring parents to affirm that they have received information about the benefits of immunization before declining to vaccinate their children in advance of enrollment at school.
- [SB 440](#)**: Renews loan repayment program to bolster Oregon's health care workforce, expanding access to primary care services in rural and underserved areas.
- [SB 436](#)**: Requires CCOs to include in community health improvement plan strategy for use of school-based health centers.
- [SB 444](#)**: Makes it a class D offense if you are smoking in a car with a child present. While OPHA did not specifically endorse this bill, we have endorsed the smoking in cars bill in the past legislative sessions.

OPHA Endorsed Bills that passed:

SB 172 Newborn Screening for Congenital Heart Disease

Directs Oregon Health Authority to adopt rules requiring all infants born at birthing facilities in this state to be screened for congenital heart defects.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/sb0100.dir/sb0172.intro.pdf>

HB 3194: Relating to crime; appropriating money; declaring an emergency; providing for criminal sentence reduction that requires approval by a two-thirds majority.

Passed in a significantly amended form with no measure 11 changes (mandatory minimums), but provides some money for domestic violence Katie Riley provided testimony in support of this bill on behalf of OPHA.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3100.dir/hb3194.intro.pdf>

HB 3260: Relating to health care, declaring an emergency.

Requires OHA to conduct study or contract with third party to study and recommend best option for financing health care in state.

<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3200.dir/hb3260.intro.pdf>

HB 3390: Earned Sick Days.

While the bill didn't pass, the effort to extend a variation on Portland's new earned sick days ordinance statewide will continue with the creation of a legislative work group to try to work out the differences and find a model that will gain majority support.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Measures/Text/HB3390/Introduced>

SB 5543: Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (TMSA)

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Measures/Text/SB5543/Enrolled>

| TMSA Dollar Allocation | |
|---|---|
| Area | |
| Coordinated Care Organizations | \$116.1 million of TMSA funds are dedicated to the Oregon Health Plan and Coordinated Care Organizations. As part of receiving TMSA dollars, we will continue to work to ensure Coordinated Care Organizations utilize best practices on tobacco prevention and control. |
| Investment in the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) | \$4 million dedicated TMSA funds for TPEP/TURA appropriation (over and above the current TPEP budget) was included in the Oregon Health Authority budget to expand state and local efforts to protect Oregonians from tobacco and help current smokers quit. |
| Investment in K-12 Physical Education | \$4 million dedicated TMSA funds for PE grants. These additional funds were appropriated in the Department of Education budget. |
| Investment in school-based health centers | An additional \$4 million (State General Funds) to help address children's chronic illness, mental health and oral health through investments in School Based Health Centers. |
| Investment in community-based health initiatives to fund innovative strategies to combat chronic disease | <p>\$30 million (State General Funds) investment in the Oregon Health Authority for a "Health System Transformation Fund." Each Coordinated Care Organization is eligible for up to \$5.25 million in funding for projects that focus on: information technology, primary care improvements or population/community health, and case and disease management.</p> <p>The Oregon Health Authority will report to the legislature on the distribution of Health System Transformation Funds, preliminary results, and expected outcomes.</p> |

OPHA endorsed bills that did not pass:

HB 2275: Cigarette Tax

Increases cigarette tax starting 1/1/14, applies to distribution after that date and to inventory held on that date. Raises tax rate by approximately \$1 per pack of cigarettes.
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2275.intro.pdf>

HB 2922 Affordable Health Care for all Oregon Act

Establishes Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Plan, operated by Oregon Health Authority according to policies established by Affordable Health Care for All Oregon Board. And while the single payer bill did not pass this session, the coalition was able to more than double the number of co-sponsors to 24 and had a great hearing.
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measures/hb2900.dir/hb2922.intro.html>

HB 3162 Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids

Requires OHA to maintain list of designated high priority chemicals of concern for children's health used in children's products. Requires manufacturers of certain children's products to provide notice to authority regarding chemicals on list. Provides that, five years after chemical is placed on list, manufacturer must seek waiver if manufacturer continues to sell children's product containing chemical. Requires authority to periodically review and revise list.
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3100.dir/hb3162.intro.pdf>

HB 3200 Assault Weapons Ban

Creates crime of unlawful possession or transfer of assault weapon or large capacity magazine. Directs Department of State Police to conduct background checks and maintain registry of assault weapons and large capacity magazine.
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3200.dir/hb3200.intro.pdf>

SB 346: Limit the Capacity of Ammunition Magazines

Bans large-capacity ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 bullets.
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/sb0300.dir/sb0346.intro.pdf>

SB 347 School Guns Bill

Removes the provision from state law that allows any person with a concealed handgun license to bring a gun into public schools (K- college).
<http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/sb0300.dir/sb0347.intro.pdf>

SB 699 A Guns-Free Capitol

Would require Concealed Handgun License holders to carry their weapons concealed while in public buildings.
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Measures/Text/SB699/Introduced>

SB 700: Universal Background Checks:

Requires criminal background checks before guns can be transferred between private parties.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Measures/Text/SB700/Introduced>

SB 796: Requires *Concealed Handgun License* applicants to complete 'live fire' training as part of the gun safety program.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Measures/Text/SB796/Introduced>