



from the desk of
REPRESENTATIVE BOOMER WRIGHT

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**Representative Wright Gets Birthday Wish,
Bill to fund Bay Area Hospital Passes**

SALEM, Ore. — Last Friday, the Oregon Legislature passed [House Bill 4075](#) — a bill vital to ensuring healthcare access on the Oregon Coast by guaranteeing funding for the Bay Area Hospital.

The Bay Area Hospital is the region's largest healthcare provider and is the only [DRG hospital](#) on the Oregon Coast. Four Critical Access Hospitals refer to the Bay Area Hospital.

The hospital was at risk of losing its DRG status, converting to a [Type B Hospital](#), which would have reduced available beds to 50 or fewer and cut services, such as labor and delivery and behavioral health care. These service reductions were projected to result in an estimated [182 preventable deaths and 2,089 additional patient transfers](#), placing significant strain on the region's already limited emergency medical services capacity.

HB 4075 is not a blank check. The 20-year refinancing plan simply guarantees the hospital, which has never missed a payment, will be able to keep operating at its current capacity without fear that predatory loan practices will force it to cut services or risk foreclosure.

Representative Boomer Wright (R-Coos Bay), who introduced the legislation, said stabilizing the Bay Area Hospital was his top priority this session.

"The Bay Area Hospital is not just my hospital (although I have availed of its services), nor is it just Coos Bay and North Bend's hospital. Nor is it just the south coast's hospital. It is the State of Oregon's hospital as part of our state system of health care. Limiting health care in one community or region limits health care statewide. The passage of HB 4075 was a bipartisan effort to ensure the Bay Area Hospital continues to provide full service to anyone in need of health care. I am honored to have been able to submit this bill and am more than ecstatic that it passed," said **Rep. Wright**.

"It was a team effort with Rep. Rob Nosse, Rep. Cyrus Javadi, Rep. Boice, Sen. DB Smith, Republican and Democrat Leadership in both Chambers, as well as the Bay Area Hospital Team, working around the clock and around the capital in the House and the Senate. It took a team of legislators working closely together to pass this bill. I thank all of them for working together to ensure that the Bay Area Hospital continues to operate in the best interests of the community, the region, and the State of Oregon," concluded **Rep. Wright**.

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