



## Medicaid Funding hearing

As we mentioned last week, the proposed Medicaid funding bill was introduced. [HB 2010](#) contains an increase in the hospital assessment as well as an increase in the health insurance premium tax from 1.5 percent to 2 percent and adds a stop-loss assessment. The House Committee on Health Care held a public hearing and work session on the bill. Click [here](#) to read OBI's testimony on the bill. The bill now heads to Ways & Means to be considered as part of the budgeting process.

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## Revenue

The Joint Student Success Subcommittee on Revenue met for a second time this week. The subcommittee continues to discuss various revenue options, with a focus on identifying \$2 billion in new revenue. On Thursday, OBI was invited to testify in front of the subcommittee on the Business Activities Tax model developed under the Oregon Business Plan. Sandra McDonough, OBI president & CEO, and Mike Stober, director of government affairs for tax and fiscal policy, reviewed challenges with a gross receipts tax and reviewed how a value-added-based business activities tax would work. McDonough stressed that, if the Legislature does not seriously look at PERS reforms, any new revenue over time will get eaten up by the PERS debt rather than being invested in classrooms. Click [here](#) to see the OBI presentation.



## Carbon Policy

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction began informational hearings on [HB 2020](#), with invited testimony from representatives of sectors impacted by the proposed legislation. The hearings will continue into next week. The committee indicated that it plans to hold hearings around the state later in the month. The potential for natural gas price increases as a result of this bill are featured in [this story](#) in The Oregonian.

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## Privacy

A number of privacy-related bills are on the table this session. Of note is a bill that would empower the Attorney General to regulate household products that can connect to the internet. [HB 2395](#) was prompted by several news stories on the Internet of Things (IoT). For

more information, click [here](#) to watch this video. OBI is tracking this bill on behalf of impacted members.

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## Household Hazardous Waste Stewardship

OBI testified in the House committee on Energy and Environment on [HB 2772](#), which would require manufacturers and retailers to fund a complex stewardship program overseen by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). While the program itself is cumbersome and duplicative, OBI's primary concern was the fact that manufacturers and retailers could be subjected to \$25,000 per day penalties for labeling requirements. Click [here](#) to read OBI's testimony.

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## Housing Bill

The first housing bill and a major priority from Democratic leaders has passed out of the Senate Committee on Housing. [SB 608](#), if passed, would be the first of its kind. The bill would create a statewide rent control and tenants' rights system. The bill now heads to the Senate floor where it is expected to be the first contentious bill of the session. Click [here](#) to read the statement from Senate Democrats.

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## Hearings This Week

[SB 164](#): Enforcement for retirement savings program in the Treasurer's office.

[SB 379](#): Eliminates the ability of employers to enforce drug-free workplace policies. Over 12 individuals, representing a wide variety of employers, testified in opposition to the bill, which would prohibit employers from screening, terminating or disciplining employees who test positive for marijuana. The bill now moves to a workgroup. Cristina Reyes from Hoffman Construction (OBI member) testified in opposition to the bill, explaining that the legislation could pose a real risk to workplace safety.

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## Hearings Next Week

The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction will hold an informational hearing on the cap and trade bill [HB 2020](#).

The Joint Committee on Student Success indicated it would hear from a group called the Coalition for Common Good on potential revenue options to raise \$2 billion for school funding.

The Senate Committee on Workforce will hold a public hearing on [SB 726](#). This bill drastically expands liability for employment discrimination complaints.

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## Do you have questions about pending legislation? Feel free to contact our team.

Tax and fiscal policies: [Mike Stober](#)

Education and health care policies: [Megan Chuinard](#)

Employment and retail policies: [Paloma Sparks](#)

Environment and energy policies: Position to be filled soon. For now, send questions to [Katie Koenig](#).



## In the News

[NW Natural says customers face big rate increases under new climate policy](#)

[Oregon Legislature Treads Carefully Toward Pricing Carbon](#)

[Oregon business group weighs in on taxes at the Capitol](#)

[Click here](#) to view all bills OBI is tracking



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## Calendar of Events

**February 28, 2019**



**OBI Lobby Day**

We will have a full day of meetings with legislators, a round table lunch and attend a floor session. Please help make this day a success speaking out on behalf of all Oregon businesses.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

**May 7, 2019**



**Annual Meeting & Legislative  
Reception - SAVE THE DATE**

Mark your calendars for OBI's Annual Meeting at the Salem Convention Center. We invite all our members to join us as we bring together business and civic leaders to discuss issues important to business and industry in our state. Watch for registration and more details soon.

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