



April 6, 2017

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2310: Public Health Modernization

Clackamas County supports HB 2310: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2310, with an amendment that will include the Public Health Advisory Board's 2017-19 implementation recommendations.

The Public Health Advisory Board recommends implementing Public Health Modernization in phases. The first phase will include funding and an expansion of services in the Communicable Disease and Environmental Health programs. The Communicable Disease Program in Clackamas County has the greatest need for funding and modernizing how we deliver our services.

Clackamas County's Communicable Disease Program has a team of four public health professionals, where a staff of seven is the recommendation for a county of our size. Limited staff is a result of limited funding. Without additional funding, Clackamas County will continue fostering a case-by-case emergency response culture, which does not address the community need of preventing infectious diseases from ever occurring. Prevention-based public health services are cheaper for the public and are proven to extend the lives of people who are served by public health prevention efforts.

Public Health Modernization aims to address public health service and funding disparities by restructuring the framework that state and local health departments use to conduct public health activities. These efforts are important because we need to address the causes of health inequities and the poor quality of life that persist in many of our local communities.

Clackamas County is proud to be part of Oregon's future to modernize public health. We also support the Public Health Advisory Board's recommendation for a phased approach and funding to support public health changes.

We urge a "yes" vote for HB 2310.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.