

March 26, 2017

Re: *Support for Public Health Modernization*

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer, Nosse and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Oregon Health Authority's budget bill (SB 5525). I am Rebecca Tiel, here today on behalf of Oregon's 62 community hospitals and the patients they serve. I am director of public policy for the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) and have the honor of serving as Chair of the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB). I'm here to testify in support of funding public health modernization.

Health care delivery organizations cannot achieve the Triple Aim of better health, better care and lower costs alone. We know that much of what shapes health happens outside the hospital walls. A robust and nimble public health system is needed to serve as the foundation for the health care to collectively reach the goals of the Triple Aim.

Since 2013, Oregon has been working to upgrade the public health system to meet current needs. The goal is to ensure that foundational programs are in place for all communities across the state. These foundational programs include communicable disease protection; health promotion, disease and injury prevention; mitigation of environmental health risks; and equitable access to health services such as immunizations and tobacco cessation.

A modern public health system moves away from a siloed, categorical funding model and moves towards an upstream, community-driven model tied to statewide accountability metrics. This shift will allow for more innovative health care-public health partnerships. For example, through the initial modernization investment, Lane County public health teamed up with neighboring counties and PeaceHealth to create an innovative pneumococcal vaccination program for high-risk individuals to help prevent the spread of disease.

Hospitals and public health share the same vision for Oregon where all people and all communities can achieve optimal health. OAHHS asks the committee to keep Oregon on the path to developing a responsive and effective 21st century public health system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Tiel, MPH
Director of Public Policy
Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems