

March 18, 2021

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Education



Re: Public University Venture Development Fund (HB 2441)

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the committee:

I write today in support of HB 2441 to renew the University Venture Development Fund (UVDF) tax credit program, which supports promising university discoveries in moving out of the lab and into Oregon's economy.

The translation of basic research taking place at OHSU, public universities in Oregon, and across the U.S., into meaningful commercial products and services is a long-term process and one that cannot proceed without funding at critical points along the way. The UVDF has been instrumental in filling those gaps that exist in the process of moving basic research discoveries, or ideas conceived at universities, into viable commercial products.

My own research and innovation development efforts have benefited directly from the UVDF through the Biomedical Innovations Program (BIP). I received my first BIP grant in 2018 to develop a unique idea to improve CPAP compliance for sleep apnea treatment. I was able to work with experienced engineers to develop an initial prototype. With the help of BIP II funds, I am now able to further the development of my project through market research and design iteration. As a physician working with patients in need, the funds from the BIP have enabled me to go from a simple idea to forming a start-up company with the potential to benefit millions of patients worldwide.

UVDF is a unique program that fills a critical need. There are not currently other programs that provide for similar funding into early-stage proof-of-concept projects or entrepreneurial education and opportunities for faculty, students and others to gain experience in the commercialization of research. Without UVDF to support early-stage commercialization out of OHSU, and our fellow Oregon universities, Oregon will be less able to contribute and compete in the global innovation economy.

I support extending the UVDF program for many years to come and urge your support as well.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hutchison, MD, FAASM  
Associate Professor of Neurology and Sleep Medicine  
OHSU, Portland, OR.