

OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

April 28, 2021
Senate Health Care Committee
CLHO Supports HB 2965

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp and Members of the Committee:

My name is Morgan Cowling and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials which represents the 33 local public health authorities who work every day to prevent the spread of disease, protect the public's health and promote healthy communities. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials worked with Representative Nosse to introduce HB 2965 to ensure the time needed to continue implementing public health modernization across Oregon. We urge the committee to support the bill.

HB 2965 does one thing and one thing only. It changes the date that local public health authorities have to submit their public health modernization implementation plan from 2023 to 2025.

To share the history, in 2015, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 3100 which created a new framework for governmental public health in Oregon, known as Public Health Modernization. HB 3100 adopted the entire model into Oregon Revised Statutes but didn't provide any funding for implementation. The bill outlined processes and timelines for a public health modernization assessment to define gaps and needs between the old public health system and a modernized public health system. HB 3100 required a phased-in approach for implementing public health modernization across the public health system with all local public health authorities implementing the model by December 31, 2023. In 2017, HB 2310 made some limited changes to the language requiring public health modernization implementation plans but did not change the date.

Passing this bill does not mean the legislature should delay funding to public health modernization. The Oregon Legislature passed public health modernization with the expectation of additional state and federal funding to fund the model established in law. We are actively working with the Human Services subcommittee on Ways and Means this session.

Please support HB 2965.

Thank you.



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