



February 1, 2023

Representative Nosse, Chair
House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
900 Court St. NE - HR F
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Nelson and Goodwin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marie Boman-Davis, I use she/her pronouns and I am the Public Health Division Manager and appointed Local Public Health Administrator for Washington County Oregon. I am writing in support of House Bill 2773.

As stated by the American Public Health Association “Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.” Across Oregon there are over 30 local public health agencies working to ensure the highest attainable level of overall population health and address state and local health inequities. This requires a workforce that includes both clinical and non-clinical staff with diverse levels of experience and education.

Benefits in HB 2773 would support entry, reentry or a career change by offering potential workers support such as scholarships, childcare and elder care subsidies to address their personal and financial needs. It would also support employers with tools such as signing bonuses and housing assistance which helps counties grow and sustain a local workforce. This will also support with advancing our culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate and equity centered services.

HB 2773 provides a broad range of meaningful intermediate-term strategies to address local barriers across a diverse workforce and the workforce spectrum. For example, traditional health workers, also known as community health workers, are trusted community members that as a group are an evidence-based strategy. They also have skills to implement evidence-based interventions and services.

This bill is beneficial across Oregon and supports local public health. I appreciate this panel’s time and encourage you to support HB 2773.

Respectfully,

Marie C. Boman-Davis

Marie Boman-Davis, PhD, MPH, MCHES
Public Health Division Manager & Local Public Health Administrator