



Testimony in support of SB 490 Supporting Oregon's Family Medicine Residencies

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of The Committee

On behalf of the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, I am offering testimony in support of SB 490, which would provide \$5 million in funding to support the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine, or ORCA-FM.

ORCA-FM is a network organized by the OAFP among Oregon's nine residency sites to provide curriculum development, marketing and faculty development, peer-to-peer support and networking opportunities for faculty, program directors, and residents.

Launched in 2019, the residency network was modeled after successful networks in other states, most notably the WWAMI Network, which is based in Washington and serves several western states.

Thus far, ORCA-FM has been run on a limited budget with funding from the programs themselves, and from grants. We were able to make most of our offerings virtual through the pandemic, which helped bridge the program to now.

Oregon's physician workforce crisis is ongoing. The best projections we have are that Oregon needs 1,174 more physicians by 2030 to offset retirements of our aging workforce, and better match unmet need. More than 2 million Oregonians live in communities with inadequate access to health care.

Family physicians are a great match for Oregon's needs. They are trained to focus on prevention, whole-person health care including behavioral health, and on care coordination with a team. They are trained to care for everyone from newborns to children through seniors, and you can find family physicians in a wide range of settings from emergency departments, hospital wards, long-term care facilities, public health agencies, independent practice and health system clinics.

Oregon trains family medicine residents in Portland, in Hillsboro, in Hood River, in Corvallis, Klamath Falls, Roseburg, Newport, and next year, a new site will welcome residents in Madras. Our best data tells us that more than half of residents stay in the state where they train; making sure they have an excellent education will help make Oregon even more attractive.

ORCA helps programs recruit excellent candidates to our state. The collaborative model developed among these programs transcends competition and focuses on sharing expertise, opportunity and community.

Supporting residency networks should be a key strategy in Oregon's workforce development and retention. On a recent webinar about supporting health care in rural areas, Tom Morris of Health Resources & Services Administration, talked about the importance not just of expanding training sites and capacity, but of supporting them as they go.

Finally, training more physicians now helps reduce burnout for our current workforce and helps them stay in the workforce for longer. Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions.