

Date:	February 21, 2024
To:	Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care
From:	Jennifer Lewis-Goff, Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager
Subject:	Support HB 4003A

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 4003A.

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is a non-partisan membership organization that advocates on issues that unite all county governing bodies and have an impact on county functions, governance, budgets, and services.

As you know, counties are the state's partner in government and the boots on the ground that implement and deliver many of the services and programs created by the legislature. Oregon's Medical Examiner system is an example of this state and county partnership.

A well-functioning medical examiner system, that is properly funded and staffed, is an essential service in our communities. Not only is it a critical tool in our judicial system, for public health data, to track trends and to identify concerns, but also, to help provide closure for individuals as they mourn their loved ones.

AOC membership believes we are at a critical juncture to thoughtfully evaluate our current system, best practices, and align our policy goals with infrastructure and budgetary needs across the state. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with our partners at the Oregon State Police to develop recommendations for the Legislature ensuring counties are supported in this important work.

We urge the committee's support of HB 4003A.