

SB 443 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/24, 3/31, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Committee. It allows the funds to be distributed to the Oregon Health and Science University's Area Health Education Center to support the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians for the same purposes as [Senate Bill 490 \(2023\)](#).

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Growth in number of family medicine residencies in Oregon
- Impact of family medicine practitioners

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The [Oregon Academy of Family Physicians](#) (OAFP) is a medical specialty society with 1,700 members in Oregon and is the state chapter of the national American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Both OAFP and AAFP engage in advocacy for the specialty of family medicine.

The [Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine \(ORCA-FM\)](#), a program of OAFP, was funded with the passage of [Senate Bill 490 \(2023\)](#). The measure directed the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to distribute \$1.5 million to Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to support the OAFP in promoting Oregon family medicine residency programs and developing training and programming for family medicine residents, directors, and faculty. It allowed OHSU's Area Health Education Center to withhold up to five percent of funding for administrative costs.

ORCA-FM is an alliance of Oregon's nine family medicine residency programs, which train 157 residents each year. According to OHSU's 2025-27 budget request to the Legislative Fiscal Office, ORCA-FM's programming in the last biennium included:

- A policy scholars program to train residents in advocacy,
- A virtual residency week to educate medical students on family medicine residencies in Oregon,
- Promoting Oregon family medicine residencies at the AAFP national conference, and
- Conference scholarships for residents and faculty.