February 19, 2025

Submitter: Betsy Boyd-Flynn
On Behalf Of: Oregon Academy of Family Physicians
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB693

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit testimony in support of SB 693, to create a taskforce on Oregon's perinatal workforce. As the membership association representing over 1800 members including medical students, residents, practicing and retired family physicians, we are deeply invested in working to ensure a stable and well-supported workforce to care for families across Oregon.

As testimony offered by numerous clinicians and policy experts during yesterday's hearing made clear, Oregon needs to identify solutions that go beyond any one community or health system.

As you heard yesterday, family physicians in many communities deliver perinatal health care for mothers and babies, and the nine family medicine residency sites in Oregon are training future family physicians in the full-spectrum of care to be able to take care of their communities wherever they settle. That training requires local cooperation where the residencies are located, but we encourage you to consider how beneficial it would be to develop a state-wide framework that allows in-community training in other locations where capacity is needed.

A holistic examination of all the factors driving hospitals to reduce maternity capacity, and an exploration of the barriers to training family physicians in obstetrical and perinatal care, will likely yield solutions that can help expand Oregon's capacity to care for birthing people now and well into the future.

Birthing families need well-trained health care providers from many professions, working as a team. We urge the committee to vote yes and dedicate the needed resources to identify tools to train those teams.

Respectfully,

Betsy Boyd-Flynn
CEO & Executive Director
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