



March 3, 2025

Senator Lisa Reynolds
Chair, Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: In Support of SB 1039, Relating to the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative; and prescribing an effective date.

Dear Senator Reynolds and members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health:

On behalf of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) and our members in Oregon, we write in strong support of SB 1039, which would renew funding for the statewide Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC). We urge you to pass this proposed legislation and support efforts to improve perinatal health outcomes for Oregon patients and families.

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), founded in 1977, is the medical professional society for maternal-fetal medicine subspecialists, who are obstetricians with additional training in high-risk pregnancies. SMFM represents more than 7,000 members who care for high-risk pregnant people and provides education, promotes research, and engages in advocacy to advance optimal and equitable perinatal outcomes for all people who desire and experience pregnancy.

SMFM is committed to lowering the nation's unacceptably high maternal death rate, as well as eliminating the wide racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes. The United States ranks behind other high-income countries in maternal mortality rates, despite major advancements in medical technologies and treatments. Each day, two mothers die due to pregnancy-related causes. Furthermore, maternal morbidity rates continue to rise. Life threatening and near miss severe maternal morbidity is estimated to occur in approximately 50,000 to 60,000 deliveries per year and has a profound effect on patients and families. In addition to being a healthcare issue, maternal mortality and severe morbidity is also a social justice issue due to its disproportionate impact on minority and low-income women.

A proven strategy for reducing preventable maternal deaths and morbidity is for states to establish a well-resourced and strong perinatal quality collaborative (PQC). PQCs convene a multidisciplinary network of partners and stakeholders dedicated to implementing evidence-based approaches to improving perinatal health. The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) has been at the forefront of this work for more than 10 years, working with clinicians, health systems, and public health partners to implement the recommendations of the Oregon Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee. The approval of state funding in 2023 allowed the OPC to increase its reach, capacity, and ability to provide consistent support to hospitals and other partners; run a statewide initiative addressing care and outcomes for severe hypertension and preeclampsia; and more. However, renewed funding is

needed so that the OPC can continue to scale its work to benefit all of Oregon's pregnant individuals and newborns. SMFM strongly supports SB 1039, which will ensure the OPC continues to have the sustained and predictable funding necessary to do its critical work.

SMFM is committed to improving perinatal health outcomes and ensuring that individuals are receiving high-quality and equitable care. We thus urge you to advance and recommend the passage of SB 1039. Please do not hesitate to contact Samantha Berg, SMFM's Manager of State Advocacy, at sberg@smfm.org or (202) 599-3866, should you have questions.

Sincerely,



Sindhu K. Srinivas, MD, MSCE
President



Christina J. Wurster, MBA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer



Aaron Caughey, MD, MPH, PhD
SMFM State Liaison, Oregon