

March 3, 2025

To: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government & Veterans

Re: Bill 2346 Relating to Emergency Management

Dear Chair Tran and House Committee Members,

My name is Kerry Hoeschen, and I am the Emergency Management Director at 211info. I am writing to express my strong support for the passage of House Bill 2346, which codifies the Office of Resiliency and Emergency Management (OREM) within ODHS.

OREM has played a critical role in strengthening Oregon's communities by helping to build resilience, responding in times of crisis, and meaningfully supporting recovery efforts. Their work is essential to the safety of all Oregonians facing disasters.

At 211info, we are uniquely positioned to see the impact OREM has had not only on our most vulnerable residents, but also on those who do not regularly require ODHS support, but find themselves in need during disasters.

Their ongoing commitment is evident in their support for 2020 wildfire survivors, their outreach to older adults during extreme heat, and their partnership with OHA to ensure safe drinking water in Morrow and Umatilla counties. Additionally, their coordination during the 2022 public safety power shut-offs was critical in checking on and assisting medically fragile individuals who rely on electricity for life-sustaining care.

Beyond these major events, OREM remains committed to local resilience efforts across the state. They have built trust in local communities, provided expertise to locally-led responses, and advocated for community-driven solutions that reflect local values, including the establishment of resilience hubs.

We at 211info support HB 2346 and recognize the Office of Resiliency & Emergency Response as a critical agent in a robust state ESF-6.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kerry Hoeschen*

Kerry Hoeschen

Emergency Management Director

211info