



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

March 11, 2025

ACOG Testimony regarding SB 1039,

Funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the committee. My name is Dr. Julia Tassett, FACOG and I am physician licensed in Obstetrics and Gynecology. On behalf of myself, my patients and the 712 practicing ob-gyns of the Oregon Section of ACOG, we would like to express our support of SB 1039. This bill renews funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC).

In 2021, the U.S. maternal mortality rate **increased 40%** from the previous year, up to 32.9 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. This is **substantially higher** than the maternal mortality rates of other higher income countries. In addition, racial health inequities continue to grow.

Efforts to improve maternal health outcomes must be supported at the state level. In addition to Oregon's Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee, the OPC is a key initiative to help combat this growing trend in maternal deaths. While the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee is important to review cases and determine contributing factors, the OPC is necessary to process that information into actionable initiatives to prevent further maternal mortality or severe morbidity. Specifically, the OPC works to eliminate preventable maternal deaths through the development of evidence based practices across the state of Oregon.

OPC has a proven record of accomplishment through Annual Summits to discuss statewide efforts as well as successful key initiatives including:

- Initiatives to improve care for severe hypertension and obstetric hemorrhage
- Implementation of “hard stop” statewide policy to end early elective deliveries
- The creation of toolkits to improve community birth transfers (planned home births to hospital transfers)
- Webinars on emerging and timely topics to the state of Oregon, including COVID (during the height of the pandemic) and substance use disorders in prenatal care

The work to improve maternal outcomes is ongoing. Funding for the OPC is imperative for the ongoing sustainability and success of this program.