



Legacy Health  
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March 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon

Re: Senate Bill 1039

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Committee:

Legacy Health is a nonprofit health care provider in the Portland-Vancouver area and mid-Willamette Valley with an integrated network of care providers in over 100 primary care, urgent care, and specialty care clinics, and six community-based and nationally recognized hospitals.

Legacy supports Senate Bill 1039 because it is our mission to provide good health for our people, our patients, our communities, and our world. We believe all people deserve access to the care they need when they need it.

Since 2010, the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) has led statewide maternal and infant health quality improvement through collaboration and implementation of evidence-based practices. In 2023 the Oregon Legislature provided funding to ensure OPC could continue its work to improve birth outcomes in Oregon. This included:

- A statewide initiative to improve care and outcomes for severe hypertension and pre-eclampsia. Two major causes of preventable harm and deaths in pregnancy and postpartum.
- Development of a 5-year statewide initiative to improve care and outcomes for pregnant and postpartum people with substance use disorders. SUD is one of the main causes of maternal mortality in Oregon.
- Growing partnerships with doulas, community health workers, and community organizations to improve care for Oregon mothers and babies
- An expansion of efforts to address the congenital syphilis crisis in Oregon.

Senate Bill 1039 will provide \$1.5 million for the 2025-2027 biennium to further improve health outcomes for Oregon mothers and babies. With stable funding, OPC can:

- Coordinate quality improvement for maternal and infant health statewide to reduce health disparities.
- Support quality improvement & simulation in rural and Critical Access Hospitals

- Ensure that best practices and changes needed to support the health of moms and babies reaches healthcare providers and hospitals.
- Direct implementation of the recommendations of Oregon's Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Review Committee.

Continued stable funding for OPC is critical to standardizing the approach to maternal care in Oregon, addressing known racial and ethnic disparities, and further improving birth outcomes in Oregon.

Legacy Health urges you to support SB 1039.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melinda Muller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melinda" and last name "Muller" clearly distinguishable.

Melinda Muller, MD, FACP  
Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer