



March 7, 2025

Chair Reynolds and Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health,

My name is Karen Gibbins. I am both a Maternal-Fetal Medicine physician and Associate Division Director at OHSU. I am writing on behalf of OHSU in support of the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative and to ask for your support of SB 1039 so that OPC can continue their mission to improve care and outcomes for Oregon mothers and babies. The support OPC has received from the state in the past has made a critical difference. That support is needed now more than ever.

Karen J. Gibbins, MD, MSCI

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OPC is the lifeline for perinatal quality improvement to hospitals in the state. Across Oregon, we see that most hospitals are stretched so thin that they are desperate for support for quality improvement work. OPC fills that gap. They have established strong relationships with hospitals and birth workers across the state. Their implementation work is impactful, reducing morbidity in an efficient, cost saving way.

OPC is tuned in to the needs of Oregon people. They routinely involve people with lived experience in their planning and implementation of quality improvement projects. In the past year, this has included projects to decrease harm from severe hypertension in pregnancy and substance use disorders in pregnancy. The perspectives of people with lived experience have been crucial to high quality work, and they have the framework to support this.

As a Maternal-Fetal Medicine physician, I am worried at the uncertain environment for the health of mothers and babies with so many key supports now in question. In Oregon, we can continue to support pregnancy health through the renewed funding of the OPC.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Gibbins, MD, MSCI
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Associate Division Director of Maternal-Fetal Medicine
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