



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Lisa Reynolds, Chair, Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Senator Dick Anderson, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Members of the Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health

From: Courtni Dresser, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: March 11, 2025

Re: OMA Comments on SB 1039

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) represents over 7,000 physicians, physician associates, and medical and PA students across the state all dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Oregonians. We are writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1039, which seeks to renew funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) and establish its existence in statute.

The United States has seen a concerning rise in maternal mortality rates, with a 40% increase in 2021, reaching 32.9 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. This rate is significantly higher than that of other high-income countries, and disparities continue to widen, particularly among people of color.

In Oregon, the OPC plays a pivotal role in addressing these challenges by coordinating statewide efforts to improve maternal and infant health outcomes. Since its inception in 2012, and with enhanced funding from the Oregon legislature in 2023, the OPC has transformed into a stable and highly productive organization, reaching all 47 birthing hospitals in Oregon.

The OPC has achieved significant progress in improving maternal and infant health outcomes across Oregon. Key accomplishments include initiatives to establish a "hard stop" policy to eliminate early elective deliveries statewide and creating toolkits to facilitate smoother community birth transfers. Additionally, the OPC has conducted educational webinars on critical and timely topics such as COVID-19 and substance use

disorders in prenatal care, ensuring that providers have access to the latest evidence-based practices.

The OMA believes that supporting SB 1039 is a crucial step toward ensuring the health and safety of mothers and infants across Oregon.

Thank you for considering our testimony. We urge the committee to vote in favor of Senate Bill 1039 to continue and enhance the essential work of the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative.