

March 10, 2025

Senate Committee on Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Support for SB 1039

Chair Reynolds, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health:

Thank you for the opportunity to share Black Futures for Perinatal Health's support for SB 1039, which provides funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative (OPC) to coordinate maternal and child health quality improvement efforts across the state and develop policy recommendations to further improve maternal and child health in Oregon.

The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative's current and past initiatives address health conditions that disproportionately impact Black birthing people and their children. These initiatives include addressing severe hypertension, hemorrhage, congenital syphilis, and substance use disorder. Nationally, Black women account for more than [20% of hypertensive disorders](#) in pregnancy. Black mothers are also [2.6 times more likely to experience obstetric hemorrhage](#) than non-Hispanic White birthing people. Between 2014 and 2022, Black pregnant people made up 2.4% of Oregon's population and [5.2% of Oregon's congenital syphilis cases](#). Substance use disorder is a leading contributor to Child Welfare investigations and involvement, and most child abuse investigations are completed for children under one year old. Black families are overrepresented in Oregon Child Welfare cases at a [rate of 1.2 times the child population](#), second only to Indigenous families (1.9).

Black Futures for Perinatal Health's mission is to expand birth justice for Black birthing people through advocacy, research, power-building, and cultural transformation. The Oregon Perinatal Collaborative partners with hospital systems and community-based organizations to create culturally sensitive, equity-driven, evidence-based tools and resources to reduce disparities in birth and neonatal outcomes for all families across Oregon.

With our mutual goals in mind, Black Futures for Perinatal Health is proud to support SB 1039 and respectfully requests that funding be secured for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative to continue its valuable work to improve the health of families today and

for generations to come.

Thank you,

Black Futures for Perinatal Health
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