



OREGON ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY**

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

Date: March 13, 2025

Re: OAFP Comments on SB 1039

On behalf of the more than 1,800 individuals who belong to the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, I am writing to express support for SB 1039, which provides funding for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative, and establishes its existence in statute.

At a time when support for excellent maternal and infant health seems to be waning nationwide even while adverse outcomes continue to rise, it is incredibly important to affirm Oregon's commitment to birthing families and the people who care for them through support for the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative.

Information gathered and distributed by OPC provides us with critical guidance about how best to support the system of care to expand access to appropriate prenatal and obstetrical care, and improve outcomes for families regardless of where they live, and what community they belong to. Disparities for rural communities and individuals from communities of color need sustained, evidence-based attention, and OPC can help guide that work.

Our problems are large, and we need organizations like OPC to drive coordinated approaches to solving them. Whether the goal is improving access to prenatal and obstetrical care in rural Oregon, or addressing the congenital syphilis emergency, guidance from the OPC can help individual facilities make real change that affect entire communities.

I personally was privileged to have some insight into the intent and potential of the OPC in 2015 and 2016, when the group was striving to expand its reach to all birthing hospitals and facilities in Oregon with support and access to data. I am pleased to see how far the Collaborative has come, and hopeful for the future, as OPC works to improve issues like perinatal maternal health and develops support for rural facilities' efforts to maintain access to care.

Please support SB 1039 so that this essential work can continue.

Betsy Boyd-Flynn  
Executive Director and CEO, OAFP