



Good morning, Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Aditi Martin, Senior Director, Collaborations and Entrepreneurship at OHSU.

I'm here to testify in support of HB 5024 and specifically, the \$19m for the Oregon Innovation Council.

I will talk briefly about the role of this funding in supporting OHSU and our partner public research institutions in advancing new discoveries and entrepreneurship.

While I'm going to be speaking to what I know best – the work happening at OHSU – also know that each of the other universities are making similarly significant strides in their areas of research and innovation. Oregon's public universities also often partner on research and innovation efforts. One example of this is Innovate Collaborate Oregon or IC Oregon which includes OSU, U of O, PSU and OHSU coming together to further support innovation and entrepreneurship. In FY24, we spun out 9 start-up companies creating new jobs for Oregonians.

OHSU is the state's foremost life-sciences research university and the only public academic medical center. OHSU has advanced quality health care with innovations, including pioneering cancer medicine, materials that replicate human bone tissue, creating the first successful artificial heart valve, to name a few.

In fiscal year '24, OHSU received about \$584 Million in research awards, of which about \$352 million came from the National Institutes of Health. Research grants are like small businesses, requiring new staff, services, and equipment. Resources acquired by researchers through grants and contracts support faculty, staff, and student salaries and add new jobs, contributing directly to the state's tax base. This federal funding spurred 94 new inventions reported at OHSU last year alone, 34% of which are in the therapeutics and vaccine development space, 15% are research tools, 9% are diagnostic tools, 7% medical devices and 17% are software innovations.

While \$584 million is a big number, there still must be significant federal and state investment beyond this to sustain research and innovation. For example, Since 2015, OHSU has partnered with Business Oregon, the State of Oregon's economic development agency, to offer an SBIR/ STTR application support program (called Phase 0) to small businesses in the state developing healthcare technologies. Since 2015, the program has assisted companies in successfully securing over \$9.1 million in SBIR/ STTR Phase I, Phase II, and Fast-track funding. Another key mechanism is the establishment of the Centers of Innovation Excellence (CIEs) as part of the

State's 10-Year Innovation Plan. CIEs are intended to focus on supporting innovation within an emerging or established sector of importance to the state's economy. CIEs concentrate on developing the funding, facilities, talent and support services in sectors where Oregon has or could develop business or other advantages.

To give you a specific example of the impact that CIEs have had, here is more information about the bioscience specific CIE called the Oregon Translational Research and Development Institute (OTRADI). Established as a non-profit institute funded primarily by the State of Oregon, OTRADI's mission is to drive economic development through the translation of innovative research into impactful products and companies, ultimately benefiting human health and creating high-wage jobs. With the bioscience industry in Oregon experiencing remarkable growth—evidenced by a 127.1% increase in employment between 2002 and 2023—OTRADI has become a vital resource for startups and researchers seeking funding and support. Recognizing the critical need for bioscience incubation space, OTRADI has expanded its facilities and offers essential services, mentoring, and networking opportunities to nurture these emerging companies. In 2024, OTRADI significantly contributed to the State's Center of Innovation Excellence funding, leveraging over \$79 million, demonstrating a strong return on investment, and reinforcing its integral role in Oregon's thriving bioscience ecosystem.

Since 1998, OHSU Innovation has led to 90 start-up companies. Many of our young companies are housed at OTRADI. Between 2017 and 2024, OHSU companies supported by OTRADI/OBI have created 275 full time jobs in Oregon, in addition to over \$50M in federal grant funding.

Thank you for your time today, and the opportunity to share these examples of how the Oregon Innovation Council and the CIEs are helping to build a brighter future for Oregon, our health and our economy.

Sincerely,

Aditi Martin, Ph.D.  
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