



ABFM Foundation, Inc.

A Supporting Organization to the American Board of Family Medicine, Inc.

President, Warren Newton, M.D

Chair, Diane Beebe, M.D.

March 18, 2025

Chairman Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Vice Chair Suzanne Weber
Oregon State Senate
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senators Frederick and Weber,

On behalf of the American Board of Family Medicine Foundation, I am writing to express our support for the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM). The ABFM Foundation recognizes ORCA-FM as a promising exemplar for residency collaboration leading to innovation in family medicine residency education and we believe that their model is an exemplar in family medicine education.

The need for robust family medicine training networks has never been greater or more important to innovation and social accountability of Graduate Medical Education (GME) outcomes in family medicine residency. The design of many family medicine residencies follows an old template that may lead to imbalances in the competencies required of graduates to meet the ever-evolving, widely diverse needs of patients, families, communities, health care systems, and family physicians themselves.

Local learning communities of family medicine residency programs are proving to be powerful vehicles for advancing care delivery and residency training innovation. The IMPLICIT (Interventions to Minimize Preterm and Low Birth Weight Infants through Continuous Improvement Techniques) Network exemplifies how collaborative learning across residency programs can transform clinical practice and improve patient outcomes by improving training design. This network, started by family medicine residencies, successfully implemented evidence-based interventions for maternal and child health by creating shared protocols, measurement systems, and quality improvement processes—all facilitated through a community of practice model similar to what ORCA-FM is building in Oregon.

When residency programs and their leaders participate in these collaborative networks, the benefits extend far beyond education. Clinical innovations developed and tested across multiple sites lead to more robust implementation, accelerated adoption of best and promising practices, and ultimately improved patient care. ORCA-FM's model of convening residencies as a community of practice across Oregon creates exactly this

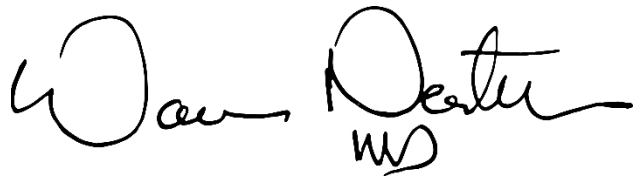
type of laboratory for GME and care delivery innovation, positioning Oregon to address critical healthcare challenges through the power of collaborative learning.

The ABFM Foundation has prioritized supporting residency networks like ORCA-FM and IMPLICIT through our Family Medicine Residency Learning Network Seed Grant program precisely because we recognize their transformative potential.

Our experience shows that residency programs thrive when connected through robust networks, particularly those in rural and underserved communities where family physicians are most needed. ORCA-FM exemplifies this model, bringing together Oregon's family medicine residency programs to foster excellence through collaboration.

Through sustained funding from the state and other organizations like the ABFM Foundation, ORCA-FM can continue to strengthen Oregon's family medicine training infrastructure while addressing critical workforce needs and advancing innovative care models. I urge you to recognize the essential role this collaborative plays in ensuring the future of primary care in your state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Newton" with "MD" written below it.

Warren Newton, MD
President, ABFM Foundation