



S.O.A.P.P.

Southern Oregon Alliance of Physicians & Providers

March 21, 21,2025

Chair Lew Frederick Vice Chair Suzanne Weber

Oregon State Senate Oregon State Senate

900 Court St. NE 900 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon 97301 Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of SOAPP (Southern Alliance of Physicians and Providers) in strong support of Senate Bill 443 which continues funding the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family

Medicine. SOAPP's mission is to collaboratively recruit primary care providers to the Southern Oregon region.

Oregon's primary care workforce is aging, and wait times for new-patient appointments

In too many parts of the state are long and getting longer. The work that ORCA-FM

does to support family medicine residency sites across the state is an important tool in

the work to ensure Oregon can continue to produce great primary care physicians, who

Historians show they are more likely to stay in Oregon for their professional careers.

After receiving state funding in 2023, ORCA-FM incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit

The organization has established its first Executive Director. They have launched programs to offer

financial advising, contract support and negotiation education to residents to help

ensure they get a great start as they enter the active workforce. The Collaborative's

Oregon-wide recruitment support has helped Oregon's residency programs attract

talented residents even as other states are seeing significant declines in trainee

numbers. The Collaborative has also supported the launch of the newest residency

training site, the OHSU Three Sisters RTT in Madras, which accepted its first class of

residents in July 2024.

We gladly collaborate with the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians and ORCA-FM,

and are committed to working together to make sure Oregon's primary care workforce is

as robust as possible.

Sincerely,

Brent Kell

Board Chair

Southern Oregon Alliance of Physicians and Providers