

Submitter:

Jamie Osborn MD

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB443

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

I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 443, which continues funding the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine. I am a family doctor and I serve as the population health officer at La Clinica in Medford. As a previous family medicine educator and residency program director, I am certain that the future health of Oregon depends on a robust family physician pipeline.

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. Personally, we struggled during and post-pandemic loss of 30% of our primary care provider workforce at La Clinica. Recruiting family doctors remains extremely difficult. 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, history shows, are more likely to stay in Oregon for their professional careers.

After receiving state funding in 2023, ORCA-FM 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.