



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Lew Frederick, Chair, Senate Committee on Education
Senator Suzanne Weber, Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Education
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Courtnei Dresser, Vice President of Government Affairs

Date: March 24, 2025

Re: OMA Comments on SB 443

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) represents and advocates for more than 7,000 physicians, physician associates, medical and PA students across Oregon. Our mission is to support our members in their efforts to practice medicine effectively, improve the health of Oregonians, and provide the highest quality patient care.

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) strongly supports Senate Bill 443, which continues funding for the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM)—a crucial investment in the future of Oregon’s primary care workforce.

Oregon is facing a growing crisis in primary care access. Our primary care workforce is aging and wait times for new-patient appointments are increasing across the state. ORCA-FM plays a vital role in strengthening family medicine residency programs, ensuring that Oregon continues to train and retain top-tier primary care physicians. History shows that physicians who complete their training in Oregon are far more likely to stay and serve our communities long-term.

Since receiving state funding in 2023, ORCA-FM has made significant strides, including recruitment support that has helped Oregon’s residency programs attract talented residents even as other states are seeing significant declines in trainee numbers and the launch of the newest residency training site in Madras.

Th OMA is proud to collaborate with the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians and ORCA-FM to build a strong, sustainable primary care workforce for Oregon. We urge your support for SB 443

to maintain the momentum of this vital program and ensure that Oregonians continue to have access to high-quality primary care.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) is the state's largest professional organization engaging in advocacy, policy, and community-building for Oregon's physicians, physician associates, medical students, and physician associate students. The OMA's members speak with one voice as they advocate for policies that improve access to quality patient care, reduce administrative burdens on medical professionals, and improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at www.theOMA.org.