



March 25, 2025

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

My name is Silke Akerson and I am the executive director of the Oregon Perinatal Collaborative which is Oregon's Perinatal Quality Collaborative or PQC. Each state has a PQC that works to improve care and outcomes around birth for moms and babies in that state. We work closely with hospitals, nurses, physicians, midwives, doulas, the Oregon Health Authority, the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee, and other partners to create and coordinate perinatal quality improvement across the state.

I am writing to ask you to support SB 443 to continue funding for the Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine. Our rural partners, especially rural hospitals with birthing services, need more family medicine physicians to meet the health needs of their communities. This funding is essential to maintain and build Oregon's healthcare workforce, especially in rural areas.

In 2024 we visited all of the 47 birthing hospitals in Oregon and the need for more family practice physicians was a common thread in small and rural hospitals. Family medicine physicians are particularly important in small hospitals and rural communities where they can cost-effectively provide a range of care including prenatal, pediatric, adult, and geriatric care without the need for a clinic or hospital to hire separate providers for each type of care. The family medicine model of care is essential in small clinics and hospitals.

Please support SB 443 for a healthy Oregon!

Please see our full [2024 Report on Oregon Birthing Hospitals](#) for more information.

Thank you for your consideration,

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