

# SB 443: BUILDING OREGON'S PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

## WORKFORCE



Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance *for* Family Medicine

### BACKGROUND

Oregon has nine family medicine residency sites, five of which are in rural areas. There are 159 in training, yet only 37 of the 53 new family physicians choose to stay in Oregon. Talented Oregon-trained physicians are leaving when they cannot connect with a community, face financial obstacles, and practice to the full breadth possible. With 1,174 more physicians needed by 2030 to meet demand, it is essential to expand training opportunities to ensure access to primary care, particularly in medically underserved areas. **SB 443** will continue to fund ORCA-FM's work and continue to make Oregon a desirable state to train, practice, and establish roots.

### THE PROBLEM

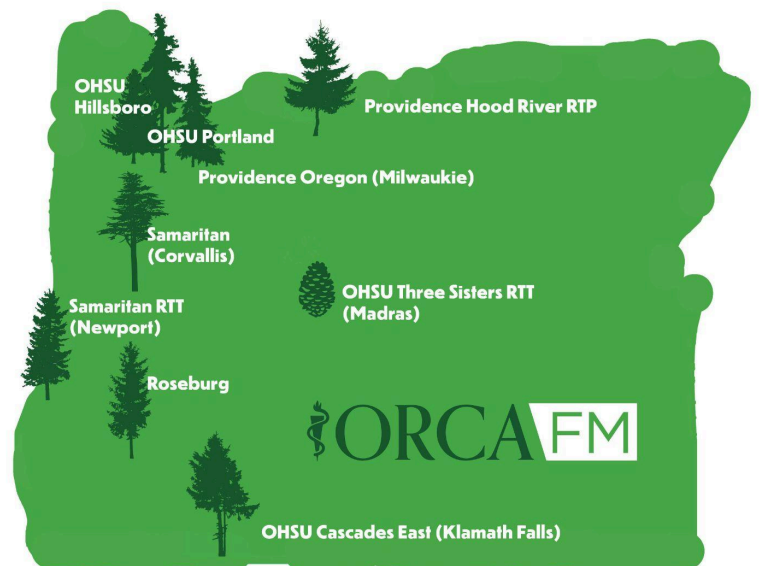
- Nearly half of Oregon's family physicians are over 50 years old, exacerbating physician shortages.
- Training capacity is increasing but needs further support to sustain and expand.
- Oregon retains over 50% of family medicine physicians trained in the state, making local investment in training crucial.

### THE SOLUTION: ORCA-FM

The Oregon Residency Collaborative Alliance for Family Medicine (ORCA-FM) first received state support in 2023 through Senate Bill 490 and is requesting it in 2025 via SB 443 to strengthen and expand family medicine residency programs

by:

- Expanding rural training opportunities
- Supporting existing residency programs to ensure stability and continued growth.
- Attracting top-quality physician trainees by funding faculty development and research initiatives.
- Providing resources for resident trainees
- Supporting collaborative site reviews to maintain program excellence.
- Provide resources for program directors, associate program directors, and faculty



## ABOUT ORCA-FM

ORCA-FM is a nonprofit network of Oregon's Family Medicine residencies dedicated to enhancing primary care through high-quality physician training and leadership development. We work closely with AHEC and each residency program to develop supportive programs, inclusive policies, and meaningful engagement. Recent accomplishments include:

- Establishing ORCA-FM as an independent 501(c)(3) organization, hiring an Executive Director, and developing infrastructure to support programs.
- Launching a strategic plan to improve training and advocacy efforts.
- Implementing innovative programs such as:
  - **Policy Scholars:** Training future physician advocates to make a difference in their communities through policy and engagement.
  - **Primary Care Beyond Clinic Walls:** Strengthening doctor-community collaboration by creating and supporting partnerships.
  - **Virtual Residency Week:** Equitably expanding access to residency programs for medical students across the globe.
  - **National Conference Representation:** Engaging medical students in family medicine by providing support for 9 residency programs during the National recruitment conference.
  - **Scholarships & Leadership Development:** Supporting residents and faculty in professional growth.

## CURRENT AND UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- **Fiscal Advising:** Free financial planning is available to all residents, providing a unique financial resource to help residents build financial tools that
- **Contract Support:** Free on-demand contract negotiation support for residents.
- **POCUS Curriculum:** Leading competency-based ultrasound education.
- **Experts on Tap:** Connecting residents with specialized mentorship (launching soon).
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program:** Developing initiatives to enhance diversity and inclusion in family medicine training.

ORCA-FM is enhancing Oregon's primary care physician workforce. Continued investment in these programs ensures long-term access to quality healthcare for all Oregonians, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

