

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Rep. Ben Bowman, Chair, House Committee on Rules
Rep. Lucetta Elmer, Vice Chair, House Committee on Rules
Rep. Hai Pham, Vice Chair, House Committee on Rules
Members of the House Committee on Rules

From: Courtni Dresser, Vice President of Government Relations

Date: February 17, 2026

Re: Support for HB 4135

The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) represents and advocates for more than 7,000 physicians, physician associates, and 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.

On behalf of our members across Oregon, we strongly support HB 4135, which designates March 4 as HPV Awareness Day and elevates education around cancer prevention and early detection.

From a clinical perspective, HPV is one of the clearest examples we have of a preventable cause of cancer. Each year in the United States, HPV is responsible for an estimated 37,800 cancer cases, affecting both women and men. Nearly 80 percent of these cancers are attributable to HPV, and the vast majority are preventable through vaccination and routine screening.

As clinicians, OMA members see the consequences when prevention falls short. In Oregon, only 67.6 percent of adolescents have completed the recommended HPV vaccine series, and just 53.1 percent of women ages 25–44 are up to date on cervical cancer screening. These gaps translate directly into delayed diagnoses, more invasive treatment, and worse outcomes for patients and families.

HB 4135 takes a thoughtful, patient-centered approach. By designating HPV Awareness Day, the bill reinforces evidence-based prevention strategies, supports clinician recommendations, and encourages coordination among the Oregon Health Authority, schools, public health

departments, and community organizations. Importantly, it does so without mandates—recognizing this as a low-cost, high-impact opportunity to save lives through education.

We also appreciate the bill's explicit acknowledgment that access to HPV vaccination and cancer screening is uneven across Oregon. Rural communities, low-income families, and communities of color face persistent barriers, and culturally responsive education is essential to closing these gaps and advancing health equity.

We would also like to recognize Representative Hartman for bringing this important bill forward. We are especially grateful for her willingness to share her personal experience with cancer so openly. That kind of leadership helps others know they are not alone, and it reminds all of us that behind the policy discussions are real people and real families. Her voice also helps educate Oregonians about the very real opportunities we have to prevent HPV and HPV-related cancers through vaccination and routine screening.

HB 4135 supports what our members strive to do every day: prevent disease before it starts, detect cancer early when it is most treatable, and ensure patients have clear, accurate information to make informed decisions about their health. We urge the Legislature to support this bill and continue investing in prevention that protects Oregonians across their lifespan.