



March 7, 2017

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 5026: Relating to funding for Oregon Health Authority

HB 5026, as currently written, includes a nearly \$900 million loss for Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) budget. Clackamas County's Public Health programs rely heavily on state and federal funding to provide adequate services to Oregonians in and around Clackamas County. OHA's budget funds the majority of Clackamas County's public health program, with the remaining needs coming from the County's general fund. OHA's support allows Clackamas County to provide several foundational public health services that often go unnoticed to our residents, like the inspection of small drinking water systems to prevent waterborne diseases and the tracking of communicable disease to control outbreaks in our community.

Public health investments are often found in preventive outreach and responses that reduce the need to respond to public health emergencies. Health emergencies are expensive and are a needless burden on many Oregonians whose path to an emergency can be prevented with smart, thoughtful public health programs. Investments in public health not only contribute to population health improvements, but they generate stronger economic growth because people can lead healthy, active lives.

Clackamas County acknowledges the burden of the state to fund more with less. We strongly believe that by reducing OHA funds from their current level the State is more likely to find health-related expenses will grow for residents, counties, and the State in the very near future.

We urge your support to ensure these essential public health programs remain available to Oregonians and Clackamas County.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.