

April 7, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: *House Bill 2310 – Public Health Modernization*

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2310. On behalf of Oregon's 62 hospitals, health systems, and the patients they serve, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health System (OAHHS) supports House Bill 2310 and the continued work to modernize the public health system.

Since 2013, Oregon has been working to upgrade the public health system to meet current needs. We know that much of what shapes health happens outside the hospital walls. A modern public health system will ensure foundational public health programs are in place for all communities in Oregon- protection from communicable diseases and environmental risks, health promotion, prevention of chronic disease and injury, and responding to new health threats.

Hospitals and public health work together as part of Oregon's health system. We improve quality of care and health outcomes through emergency department information exchange; prepare for and respond to emergencies such as Ebola and coordinate resources during natural disasters; and proactively plan community health improvements, for example, the efforts of the Healthy Columbia Willamette Collaborative.

HB 2310 takes public health modernization to the next phase and creates additional opportunity for our systems to coordinate and gain efficiencies. Directing the Public Health Advisory Board to develop accountability metrics aligns with Oregon's health system transformation goals and is a tangible deliverable that will result in outcomes-based collaboration. HB 2310 is the next step in this system change and that we look forward to supporting alignment and shared priorities.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting HB 2310.

Andi Easton
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