



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sam Brentano
Janet Carlson
Kevin Cameron

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

April 6, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 973401

Re: Support HB 2310

Dear Chair Greenlick and Committee Members:

Marion County supports HB 2310 with an amendment which includes those recommendations made by the Public Health Advisory Board to include 2017-19 implementation of aspects of the Communicable Disease and Environmental Health Foundational Programs and Assessment and Epidemiology, Leadership and Health Equity Foundation Capabilities. These areas build off of current capacity with a focus on greater accountability to improving health outcomes.

Our public health system needs funding. An underfunded public health system without adequate public health infrastructure leaves us vulnerable to a health care disaster or epidemic. Supporting public health infrastructures ensures fair opportunities for health and eliminates gaps in health outcomes. In addition, a strong public health system can aid in the slowing of the spread of communicable diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, improve childhood immunization rates, continued provision of nurse home visit services to our vulnerable children and their families, and increase community capacity to respond to environmental health hazards.

Redefining and expanding the work and expectations of public health helps improve the conditions that create opportunities for health. The work of Oregon's local public health departments is essential to the health of our communities across the state. Marion County urges your support of HB 2310.

Sincerely,

Samuel A. Brentano, Chair Janet Carlson, Vice Chair Kevin Cameron, Commissioner

cc: Marion County Legislative Delegation