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April 7, 2017
House Committee on Health Care
Support House Bill 2310 – Implementing Public Health Modernization

Greetings,

As one of Oregon's 34 local public health departments, Lake County Public Health is focused on protecting children and supporting families to thrive. We are submitting this letter to support HB 2310 and funding to implement the first phase of Public Health Modernization

Lake County Public Health supports HB 2310 with an amendment that will include the recommendations for 2017-19 implementation made by the Public Health Advisory Board to implement 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 to greater accountability to improving health outcomes.

To focus on improving health outcomes in our communities, Oregon's public health system needs funding. We simply cannot afford to leave our public health departments underfunded and without adequate public health infrastructure until a horrific epidemic, disaster or outbreak occurs.

Redefining and expanding the work and expectations of public health can help improve the conditions that create opportunities for health. As a public health nurse for over 20 years and currently in my position as director, I have seen firsthand how difficult it is to provide consistent, quality services with inadequate funding. Most public health programs have been flat funded for years with costs increasing each year and no stable funding to make up the difference. To provide quality services it is important for us to retain quality employees and build on successful programs that promote healthy environments for individuals, families and communities.

The work of Oregon's local public health departments is essential to the health of communities across our state. Lake County Public Health urges your support of house bill 2310.

Sincerely,

/s/ Beth Hadley

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