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TO: The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care

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SUBJECT: HB 2310 Public Health Modernization

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee, I am Lillian Shirley, Director of the Public Health Division at the Oregon Health Authority. I am here to testify in support of HB 2310, a bill that refines statutes related to the modernization of Oregon's public health system.

In 2015, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill 3100 which established foundational public health capabilities and programs to detect and prevent infectious diseases, protect the public from exposure to environmental hazards and respond to natural and man-made disasters in every Oregon community. I want to thank Chair Greenlick for his continued leadership on this work.

As Director for Oregon's Public Health Division and the former Director of the Multnomah County Health Department, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges Oregon's public health system faces in meeting the needs of every person in Oregon.

In 2016, the Public Health Division and all 34 local public health departments in Oregon completed an assessment of their current capacity to provide core public health services. We now know there are gaps across the entire public health system, and in every community. In more than one third of Oregon communities, core public health programs are limited, and Oregonians are at risk for not being protected from emerging communicable diseases, environmental health threats or natural or man-made disasters. We also now know that more than 50% of

Oregonians live in an area of the state where the public health department does not have capacity to address health disparities, leaving vulnerable communities with a disproportionate burden of poor health outcomes.

Proven public health interventions offer the best chance to reduce preventable diseases; increase the population's life span; and reduce health care costs, including those to the state Medicaid system. For example, a comprehensive public health tobacco prevention program would result in 500 fewer adult smokers, saving more than \$6 million in medical costs over their lifetimes.

Oregon's plan for modernizing the public health system includes three priorities: expanding our reach through collective action with health care and other partners; addressing health priorities using the foundational capabilities; and demonstrating the impact of public health through accountability metrics and evaluation. The public health system is already using this framework to address complex health issues. The Prescription Drug Overdose Program works with coordinated care organizations and health systems to end the growing prescription opiate problem in Oregon. This includes implementing statewide opiate prescribing guidelines, improving access to naloxone and medication assisted treatment, and ensuring ongoing surveillance of controlled substance prescribing. Data from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program show these strategies are working. Between Quarter 3 of 2015 and Quarter 3 of 2016, Oregon saw a 9.2% decrease in opioid prescriptions.

We are also using a modern approach to end new HIV infections in Oregon within five years. End HIV Oregon is a comprehensive strategy to increase the number of people who know their HIV status; ensure treatment for people living with HIV and their partners; and use proven public health methods to prevent new infections like syringe exchange. The End HIV Oregon initiative includes an annual report card on progress toward meeting key metrics for ending HIV transmission, and we look forward to sharing the next report card with you next December on World AIDS Day.

In order to continue to modernize Oregon's public health system, HB 2310 refines existing statutes. These changes will strengthen the public health system's ability to meet the priorities and strategies laid out in the statewide modernization plan. These changes will also enhance our ability to demonstrate improved population health resulting from a modern public health system by establishing requirements for accountability metrics.

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In my role, I remain committed to our important work to modernize Oregon's public health system. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer questions.